

FROM THE VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT



VERMONT

# HUNTING

# & Trapping Guide

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS DIGEST

2018



## Hunting in the Social Media Era:

pg.15





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## A Special Message from the Commissioner

Well-founded concerns about where our food comes from, and what was put on the land to raise it, have launched Vermont to the forefront of the local farm movement. These issues aren't new. Vermonters have believed for generations that the best food for us, and for our surroundings, comes from our own farms and fields.

As with local farming, hunting near home provides many of the same personal and landscape benefits. It provides highly nutritious food and ensures a strong landscape that sustains us. Hunting also fosters accountability for how food is produced, and a clear, unvarnished insight into how the animals that become our meat live and die.

And yet, even though pursuing game is deeply engrained in our culture, hunting and angling have not enjoyed the same recent surge in interest and support as local farming. Perhaps that's because pursuing and harvesting game requires a bigger commitment than shopping at a farmer's market. It's easy to pick up a CSA share. Learning to hoist a rifle and track game takes hours of training and mentoring. And a growing proportion of Vermont's citizens are new to a rural life, rather than born to it.

To ensure our tradition of getting food from a healthy wild landscape continues, we can learn from our farming neighbors by welcoming our new localvores into hunting. By bringing them along, we can broaden our community and create new connections between people and the land.

Hunt local.

Louis Porter, Commissioner

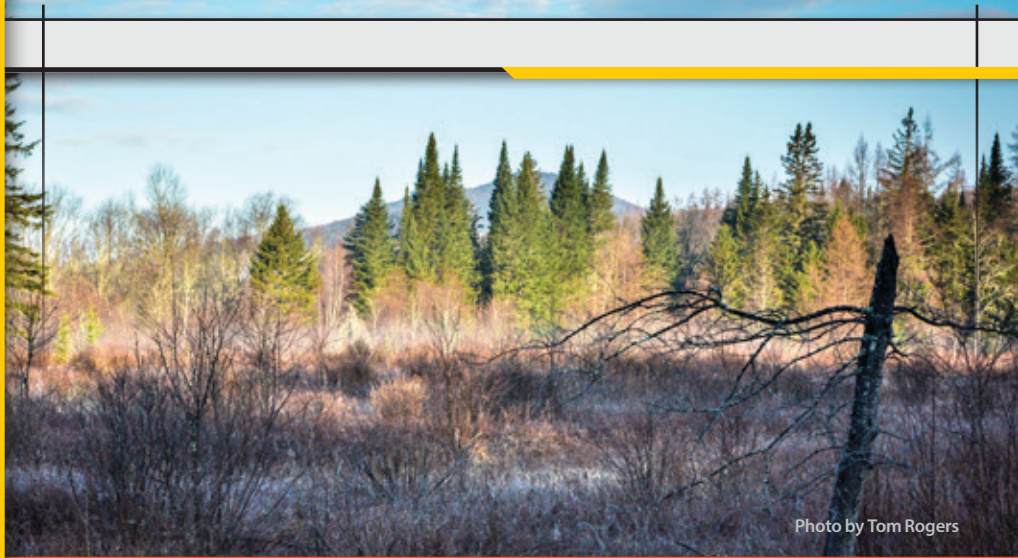


Photo by Tom Rogers

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#### Cover Photo:

A whitetail buck searches for a doe along a colorful tree line in late autumn.

Courtesy © Ricardo Reitmeyer | Dreamstime

#### Fish & Wildlife Laws

The purpose of Vermont Fish & Wildlife laws is to help protect, manage, control and conserve the fish and wildlife of the state. Every individual who hunts, fishes or traps is responsible for knowing the fish and wildlife laws. This lawbook provides the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's interpretation of these laws. It is formatted to make the laws easier to read and understand. For a complete wording of Vermont's fish and wildlife statutes and regulations, consult *Vermont Statutes Annotated, Part 4, Title 10*, available at Town Clerks' offices and on the Internet at [legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10](http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10). Any questions you have regarding these laws should be directed to your local game warden.





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# 2018 Quick Reference Guide

All dates inclusive.

## Big Game Hunting

SPECIES	SEASON	NOTES	DATES	
Deer	Bow & Arrow		Oct. 6 – Nov. 2 & Dec. 1 – 9	
	Youth Deer Weekend		Nov. 3 – 4	
	16 Day Regular Season		Nov. 10 – 25	
	Muzzleloader		Dec. 1 – 9	
Black Bear			Early Season: Sept. 1 – Nov. 9 Late Season: Nov. 10 – 18	
Turkey	Youth Turkey Weekend		April 28 – 29	
	Spring Season		May 1 – 31	
	Fall Seasons	Bow & Arrow only	In all WMUs statewide	Oct. 6 – 19
		Shotgun or Bow & Arrow	WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q WMUs F, K, and N	Oct. 20 – 28 Oct. 20 – Nov. 4
Moose			Season set annually	

## Furbearer Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 28, 2017 – Feb. 11, 2018 & Oct. 27, 2018 – Feb. 10, 2019
Raccoon	Oct. 13 – Dec. 31
Muskrat	Mar. 20 – April 19
Coyote, Skunk, Weasel, and Opossum	Open Year Round
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion, Mink, Otter, Beaver, Fisher	No open season

## Small Game Hunting

SPECIES	DATES
Hare, Rabbit	Sept. 30, 2017 – March 11, 2018 & Sept. 29, 2018 – March 10, 2019 WMUs D&E remain open through March 31
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	Sept. 29 – Dec. 31
Woodcock, Waterfowl	To Be Announced
Crow	Jan. 15 – April 11 & Aug. 19 – Dec. 19 Friday - Monday only

## Furbearer Trapping

SPECIES	DATES
Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel	Oct. 27 – Dec. 31
Otter, Muskrat, Beaver	Oct. 28, 2017 – Mar. 31, 2018 & Oct. 27, 2018 – Mar. 31, 2019
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Eastern Mountain Lion	No open season



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# License Information

## Licenses are Required

Any person engaged in fishing, hunting, trapping or taking any wild animals must be properly licensed, except as listed below under exceptions. Wild animals are defined by law as ALL animals, including birds, amphibians, and reptiles, other than domestic animals.

## Exceptions to License Requirements

A **resident** owner of land in Vermont, his or her spouse, and minor children may hunt within the boundary of that land and take fish from a private pond within the boundary of that land without a license within season (except if their right to obtain a license is under suspension, or for seasons requiring a special tag such as moose, antlerless muzzleloader, and waterfowl seasons).

A **nonresident** owner of land has equal privilege if his or her land is NOT posted (except if their right to obtain a license is under suspension). "Posted" means any signage that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land, except for "Safety Zone" signs.

## My License Covers What?

**Basic Hunting Licenses** include a late season bear tag, and a November season legal buck tag. They also cover small game hunting. Combination licenses include a late season bear tag, November buck tag, small game hunting, and fishing. Add-on licenses are required for early season bear, archery deer season, muzzleloader deer season, and turkey seasons (each with their own tags).

## Military Personnel

Any **resident** of Vermont who certifies that he or she is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or is performing, or is under orders to perform, a homeland defense or state-side contingency operation for a period of 120 or more consecutive days may obtain at no cost a hunting or fishing license or combination hunting and fishing license.

A person who obtains a license under this provision may keep the license until it expires, whether or not the person continues to serve in the armed forces.

If requesting a hunting or combination license, you also need to submit a copy of your hunter education certification, a previous hunting license, or complete an affidavit stating you have held a hunting license.

A **nonresident** member of the armed forces of the United States who certifies that he or she

## BUYING YOUR LICENSE

### We offer three easy ways to purchase your license:

#### 1 Online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

The online license buying process is easy. **You will need:**

- Acrobat Reader on your computer. You can download the free Acrobat Reader software from our website.
- A **credit card**. We accept Visa, MasterCard, or Discover for payment.

#### Pro Tip:

- Have your Conservation Identification Number or CID # ready. You can look up your Conservation ID on the website or find it on your previous license.

#### To purchase a hunting, combination, archery or trapping license:

- You must have held a previous hunting, combination, archery or trapping license in Vermont, any other state or Canada or have passed a State approved safety course. You may complete the license affidavit form certifying that you have held this type of license previously or passed a State approved safety course.

#### Important things to remember:

- Type your information as you wish it to appear on your license. Your license and a photo ID should be carried whenever you go fishing, hunting or trapping.
- A digital version of your license carried with you is also acceptable. Big game or transportation tags are required to be carried when hunting big game. A transportation tag, available for free at license agents, is an acceptable tag. Minor children must still carry a paper license signed by their parent.

#### 2 Purchase your license at one of our district offices or from an authorized license agent.

A list of license agents is available on our website or you can call 802-828-1190 for an agent closest to you.

#### 3 Print a license application from our website to fill out and send in with your payment.



is on active duty and stationed at a military, air or naval post, station or base within Vermont may buy a license to hunt or fish at the resident fee.

These licenses are available from Fish & Wildlife offices, license agents and our website.

Any questions on eligibility for military licenses should be directed to 802-828-1190 or [anr.fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fwinformation@vermont.gov) or sent to:

**Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**  
Attn: Licensing  
1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208

## Resident Status

In order to obtain annual resident licenses, a person must have lived in Vermont for the six months immediately prior to applying for a license and NOT claimed residence elsewhere for any other reason.

An applicant for a resident lifetime license must have been a resident for at least 12 months or must be a dependent of a resident.

A nonresident student who is enrolled in a high school, college or university within the state is entitled to an annual resident fishing, hunting or combination license.

To qualify, the student must have successfully completed two successive semesters at his or her Vermont school or college, must present an admission card, and must pay the resident fee.

## Mentored Hunting License

Mentored Hunting licenses are available everywhere licenses are sold.

**A mentored hunting license is available to a resident or nonresident who:**

- Has **never** successfully completed a hunter safety course.
- Has **never** held a hunting license in Vermont or any other state or province.

**A person issued a mentored hunting license may hunt when:**

- Accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older who holds a valid Vermont hunting license. In these circumstances, the term "accompanied" means the mentored hunter is in the direct control and supervision of the fully licensed adult hunter and is within 15 feet of the fully licensed adult hunter.
- A parent or legal guardian has also signed the license if the applicant is 15 years old or younger.

The licensed adult hunter may take hunting only one person with a mentored hunting license. The licensed adult must have purchased all tags and stamps appropriate for the type of

hunting they are participating in (for example, a turkey tag for mentored turkey hunting).

A person holding a mentored hunting license is subject to the bag limit of the fully licensed adult accompanying hunter.

When game is taken by a person holding a mentored hunting license, it shall be deemed taken by the fully licensed adult accompanying hunter.

After tagging and reporting game, if required, a person who holds a mentored hunting license may, unaccompanied by the fully licensed adult hunter, transport game he or she has taken.

**There are limitations on a person who holds a mentored hunting license:**

- A person who holds a mentored hunting license is not eligible to hold a moose permit or accompany moose hunters, or participate in youth deer, or youth turkey hunting weekends.
- A person who holds a mentored hunting license who is 16 or older is required to purchase and carry a federal duck stamp in order to hunt waterfowl.
- A mentored hunting license shall only be issued twice to any one individual.

### Penalties for violations

Fines for a violation of this section or any fish and wildlife law are doubled and assessed against the fully licensed adult hunter accompanying the mentored license hunter. Points for the violation(s) will be assessed against the fully licensed adult hunter.

## Permanent Licenses

**NEW THIS YEAR** Any Vermont resident who is 66 or older may apply for a permanent license on our website, at an authorized license agent, at our district offices or through the mail to the Fish & Wildlife office. Permanent licenses have a one-time fee of \$60.

If a permanent license holder wishes to hunt for a second archery deer, he/she must purchase the additional archery license. If waterfowl hunting, he/she must also purchase state and federal duck stamps and register with H.I.P. each year.

Permanent licenses do not include duck stamps or entries into the moose and antlerless lotteries or permits.

Permanent licenses must be renewed each year. Renewal is free, but if you choose to go to a license agent, they may charge up to \$1.50.

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Please Plan On Attending Our Annual Banquet on March 10, 2018

Mail to:

14 Stafford Avenue, Morrisville, VT 05661

For more information, visit our website at [www.vtfsc.org](http://www.vtfsc.org)



## Permanent Disability Licenses

A legally blind person who is a Vermont resident may apply for a free permanent fishing license. Information is available from the Fish & Wildlife office or our website.

A Vermont resident who is paraplegic or who is certified by a physician to have permanent severe physical mobility disability, may receive a free permanent fishing, hunting or combination license, if qualified, with the proper proof of disability.

“Paraplegic” is a person with permanent paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement or loss of both legs. A Statement of Disability form is available from the office or our website.

A Vermont resident who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, and who is 60% or more disabled due to a service connected disability, may receive a free permanent fishing or combination license, if qualified, upon presentation of a letter from the Veterans Administration specifically indicating the service connected disability rating.

To see if you qualify for the license, call the Veterans Benefits Section at 802-828-1190. If you qualify for a combination license, you will also receive turkey and muzzleloader deer licenses. If you qualify for an archery license, you will receive one.

Permanent licenses do not include duck stamps or entries into the moose and antlerless lotteries or permits.

## Lifetime Licenses

A resident or nonresident lifetime fishing, hunting, or combination fishing and hunting license may be obtained from the Fish & Wildlife Department. Applications are available on our website or from the main office in Montpelier. Fees are as follows:

- for children < 1 year old = 6x current adult license price.
- for children 1–15 years old = 16x current adult license price.
- for adults 16–24 years old = 31x current adult license price.
- for adults 25–64 years old = 26x current adult license price.

## Lifetime and Permanent License Renewal

**If you intend to hunt, fish, or trap in 2018, you must update your lifetime, permanent disability, or permanent license regardless of whether or not you used your tags.** This statutory requirement has been put in place to allow the department to collect accurate harvest and licensing information for lifetime licenses.

This updated license will include current year tags. You may update your license at no cost online at our website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). If you are unable to go online you may go to any authorized license agent or Fish & Wildlife Office and request to have your license updated. You can also call us at 802-828-1190 to be updated. A license agent may charge you up to \$1.50 for a reprint.

## Requirements for Hunting, Combination Hunting and Fishing, Archery & Trapping Licenses

An applicant for a hunting, combination hunting and fishing, archery, or trapping license must present either:

1. A previous or current hunting, combination, archery or trapping license from Vermont or any state or Canadian province; or
2. A certificate or a letter of proof showing satisfactory completion of an approved hunter safety, archery, or trapping education course from Vermont or any other state or province; or
3. Completed affidavit attesting to having a prior hunting, combination, archery, or trapping license from Vermont or any other state or province.

## VERMONT IS A MEMBER OF THE

### Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

The Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (IWVC) ensures that in participating states, nonresident violators will receive the same treatment as resident violators. IWVC member states reciprocate in the suspension or revocation of licenses and permits resulting from violation of hunting, fishing or trapping laws.

If an individual’s license or permit privileges are revoked in one compact member state, they are subject to suspension or revocation in all other member states. For example, if a Vermont resident has their hunting privileges suspended in Minnesota, their privileges may also be suspended in Vermont and in all other compact states. This helps prevent habitual violators from relocating their illegal activities to other member’s states.

The IWVC also has established procedures that cause a nonresident violator who fails to comply with the terms of a citation issued in a participating state to face the possibility of the suspension of their wildlife license privileges in their home state until the terms of the citation are met. The goal of the IWVC is to facilitate improved enforcement of hunting, fishing and trapping laws through the cooperation of law enforcement units in member states.





A person under age 16 must have his or her parent or guardian sign to obtain a hunting license.

**NOTE**—State firearms laws, found at *13 V.S.A. Sect. 4017*, prohibit certain individuals, including those convicted of felonies or any domestic violence offense, those subject to a final relief from abuse order and unlawful users of controlled substances from possessing centerfire and rimfire firearms, including muzzleloaders with #209 primers. For a complete list of prohibitions, contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at 802-865-4020.

## Hunter Education Courses

A list of upcoming hunter education courses is available at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) or by calling 802-828-1193.

## License Possession

Appropriate licenses must be carried while hunting, fishing, trapping or transporting fish, game or furbearers. The licenses must be exhibited

on demand of a State Game Warden or other enforcement officer, or the owner of the land on which such person is hunting, fishing or trapping. See *10 V.S.A. Sect. 4266*. An electronic or digital copy of the license is acceptable. Tags are required to be carried while big game hunting. Minor children must still carry a paper license signed by their parent.

## License Revocation

*10 V.S.A. Sect. 4502*—the “Uniform Point System”—provides that hunting, fishing and trapping licenses will be revoked based on the number of points received when a person is convicted of violating a fish or wildlife law.

### Suspensions

- For 10 to 14 points accumulated in 5 years: 1 year suspension
- For 15 to 19 points accumulated in 5 years: 2 year suspension
- For 20 points or more accumulated in 5 years: 3 year suspension

Conviction of carelessly or negligently wounding a person by gunshot, or manslaughter by

the careless and negligent use of firearms, will, by statute, revoke the hunting license privilege or the right to obtain such license for five years.

It is illegal to hunt, fish or trap while a license or right to obtain a license is under suspension in Vermont or any other state that is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Landowners may not hunt, fish or trap on their land if their license is suspended.

### Fine

Up to \$4,000 and additional suspension period and up to 60 days in jail.

### Remedial Course

A person whose license is revoked with 15 or more points accumulated in five years must successfully complete a remedial course designed to teach hunters, trappers and anglers correct legal and ethical behavior while hunting, trapping and fishing.

### Suspension Per Family Court Orders

Vermont hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and permits may be suspended for failure to comply with child support orders of the Family Court. *15 V.S.A. Sect. 798(b)*.



## HUNTING SEASON EQUALS TICK SEASON

Be Tick Smart — Stay protected from anaplasmosis and other tickborne diseases

- PROTECT** from tick bites with EPA-registered repellents on exposed skin and permethrin on clothing.
- CHECK** your skin and clothes for ticks after being outside. Showering can help wash them away.
- REMOVE** ticks with tweezers — pull straight up and don't twist.
- WATCH** for symptoms of tickborne illnesses and see your health care provider if you get sick.

[HEALTHVERMONT.GOV/BETICKSMART](http://HEALTHVERMONT.GOV/BETICKSMART)





# 2018 License Fees

Licenses, moose permit applications, and antlerless deer permit applications and their fees are available online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## Resident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
Hunting	\$26.00	\$124.00
Youth Hunting (age 17 or under)	\$8.00	
Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42.00	\$204.00
Youth Combination (age 17 or under)	\$12.00	
Mentored Hunting	\$10.00	
Trapping	\$23.00	\$109.00
Youth Trapping (age 17 or under)	\$10.00	
Archery-Deer (hunting license needed) <sup>2</sup>	\$23.00	
Turkey (hunting license needed)	\$23.00	
Bear (Sept. 1 – Nov. 9 early season – hunting license needed)	\$5.00	
Muzzleloader-Deer (hunting license needed) <sup>3</sup>	\$23.00	
Permanent license (Residents only, 66 or older)	\$60.00	

## Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR	5-YEAR
Hunting	\$100.00	\$494.00
Youth Hunting (age 17 or under)	\$25.00	
Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$138.00	\$684.00
Youth Combination (age 17 or under)	\$30.00	
Mentored Hunting	\$10.00	
Trapping	\$305.00	\$1,519.00
Small Game <sup>1</sup>	\$50.00	
Archery-Deer (hunting license needed) <sup>2</sup>	\$38.00	
Archery Only-Deer (hunting license NOT needed) <sup>2</sup>	\$75.00	
Turkey (hunting license needed)	\$38.00	
Bear (Sept. 1 – Nov. 9 early season – hunting license needed)	\$15.00	
Muzzleloader-Deer (hunting license needed) <sup>3</sup>	\$40.00	



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[www.northernlightscu.com](http://www.northernlightscu.com)

\*Rates may vary. Some restrictions may apply.



- 1 – Small Game Licenses: Entitles the holder to take small game, furbearers and other wild animals (except big game) by any lawful means other than a trap.
- 2 – Archery deer tag is only for use in archery deer season.
- 3 – Muzzleloader deer licenses are only valid for use in muzzleloader deer season.

## Resident or Nonresident

LICENSE	1-YEAR
Vermont Waterfowl Stamp	\$7.50

Vermont and federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt migratory waterfowl for hunters 16 and older. Federal stamps are sold at post offices. Vermont State Waterfowl "Stamps" are available on the Fish & Wildlife website, from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department offices and license agents statewide.

A state waterfowl stamp is good for the calendar year and no longer needs to be signed by the hunter. The federal stamp still requires a signature.

State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for a hunter holding a mentored hunting license and taking out a mentee hunter. A mentored hunter is also required to purchase federal waterfowl stamp and to register for a H.I.P. number. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for hunters 16 and 17 years old taking part in youth waterfowl weekend in the Champlain and Interior Zones.



# General Regulations

**“Take” and “Taking”** mean pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, disturbing, harrising, worrying, wounding, snaring or netting fish, birds or other animals. It includes placing, setting, drawing or using any net or other device commonly used to take fish or wild animals, whether they result in taking or not. It includes every attempt to take and every act of assistance to another person in taking or attempting to take fish or wild animals.

## Camping and Trespass

It is illegal to park, drive or camp on another person's land without permission of the landowner. You must immediately leave the property when the landowner requests it, whether the property is posted or not. Roadside or public highway turnouts are not legal for overnight camping.

## Importation of Wildlife

It is illegal to bring live wild mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, or fish into Vermont without previously obtaining an importation permit from the Fish & Wildlife Department.

## Interfering with Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, or their equipment

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with someone who is lawfully taking fish or wild animals, or to disrupt the taking of any fish or wild animal by harassing or disturbing the fish or animal.

## Interstate Highways

No one may legally travel on foot within the right-of-way or cross boundary fences along interstate highways. Rest areas and pullouts are NOT access areas for hunting, fishing or entering on adjacent lands unless posted as such.

## Private Roads and Lands

Law prohibits obstructing private driveways, barways, or gateways with motor vehicles. People shall not drive over private lands or enter these lands for the purpose of camping without the permission of the landowner.

## Season Dates

All season dates in this book are inclusive.

## Violators

A person who drives, transports, scouts, counsels, or otherwise aids another person in a violation, or who knowingly possesses, consumes, or otherwise shares in the proceeds of such a violation by receiving or possessing fish or wild animals, or any parts thereof, shall be punished as a principal.

## Damage to Fish & Wildlife Property

A person who damages or destroys a wildlife facsimile (decoy) owned by the Fish & Wildlife Department shall pay restitution for its replacement or repair.

Whoever intentionally or recklessly damages, injures, interferes with, or destroys any property, real or personal, belonging to or controlled by the state for fish, game, or wildlife purposes shall be fined not more than \$2,500 and pay restitution to repair or replace the damaged property.



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## Fines & Penalties

A person who violates state law or regulation while taking, possessing, transporting, buying or selling big game or Threatened or Endangered Species will face penalties that include fines, imprisonment, license revocation and forfeiture of equipment used in the violation. Violators may be fined up to \$1,000, for the first conviction. Upon a second and all subsequent convictions, the violator shall be fined not more than \$4,000 nor less than \$2,000. Violators may also be imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or may face both fine and imprisonment and restitution payments to the Fish and Wildlife Fund. License revocation is based on the point system (10 V.S.A. Sect. 4502).

## Reimbursement for Illegally Taken Fish or Wildlife

In addition to any court penalties, anyone convicted of illegally taking, destroying, or possessing wild animals must pay, as restitution, into the Fish and Wildlife Fund no more than the following amounts:

- Big Game** .....up to **\$2,000.00**
- Endangered Threatened Species** .....up to **\$2,000.00**
- Small Game** .....up to **\$500.00**
- Fish** ..... up to **\$50.00**

## Threatened & Endangered Species

In lieu of criminal prosecution for injuring or taking Threatened or Endangered Species, the Agency of Natural Resources can pursue civil enforcement. Civil penalties are capped at \$42,500 for a single violation. The complete list of threatened and endangered species is available on the Fish & Wildlife website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)). The list includes: lake sturgeon, stonecat, timber rattlesnake, bald eagle, spruce grouse, beach heather, great laurel, Canada lynx, marten, little brown bat and Indiana bat. Federal penalties also may apply.

## Posted Property Under Fish & Wildlife Law

Hunting, fishing or trapping on properly posted land is illegal without **written permission**. This includes land posted for hunting, fishing or trapping **by permission only**. In order to be properly posted, the landowner must file with the town clerk and the Fish & Wildlife Department. See 10 V.S.A., Sect. 5201-5206.

Whether the property is posted or not, a hunter or angler shall show their license if requested by the landowner.

It is illegal to damage or remove posters prohibiting hunting, fishing or trapping.

A person must leave the land immediately on demand of the owner, whether the land is posted or not.

### Posting & Permission Only Signs

A landowner, or a person having the exclusive right to take game on land or the waters thereon may maintain signs stating that hunting, fishing, or trapping or any combination of the three is **prohibited or by permission only**.

See 10 V.S.A. Appendix Sect. 14c for fish stocking requirements to post against fishing.

**Permission Only signs** shall state the owner's name and a method by which to contact the owner or a person authorized to provide permission to hunt, fish or trap on the property.

### Posting and Permission Only Signs

- The owner or person posting the land, shall annually record the posting at the town clerk's office for a fee of \$5.00.
- Signs must be not less than 8 ½ inches by 11 inches.
- Lettering and background on the signs must be of contrasting colors.
- Signs must be maintained at all times and dated each year.
- Signs must be erected on or near all boundaries, at each corner, and no more than 400 feet apart.
- Signs shall not be considered void if other language is added, as long as a reasonable person would understand that hunting, fishing or trapping are prohibited.

### Location of Posting Signs

Posting signs and "By Permission Only" signs must be erected on or near all the boundaries, at each corner and not over 400 feet apart.

### Safety Zone

A property owner may establish a 500-foot Safety Zone around an occupied dwelling, residence, barn, stable or other building with signs provided by the Fish & Wildlife Department. These signs shall be placed at each corner of the safety zone and no more than 200 feet apart. Shooting is prohibited in the Safety Zone and no wild animal may be taken within it without permission from the owner.

## Falconry

Falconry is legal by special permit. Contact Fish & Wildlife for information at (802) 828-1483. Only the State permit is required.

## Sale or Purchase of Game

### Small Game

It is illegal to buy or sell a wild bird, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, or gray squirrel.

### Big Game

The only time it is legal to buy or sell big game or the meat of big game within the state is during the open season and for 20 days after the season ends. The meat of big game animals is not to be bought or sold to be transported out of the state. It is illegal to buy or sell anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River Basin and/or to buy or sell wild turkey at any time.

Other than the meat mentioned above, a person may buy or sell at any time:

- The head, hide and hoofs of legally taken deer or moose; or
- The head, hide, paws and internal organs of a legally taken black bear.

### Deer Hides

Anyone wishing to engage in the business of buying furs or skins of furbearers or deer hides must have a valid Fur Buyer's License. Contact Fish & Wildlife.

### Bear Parts

International trade in hides, claws, skulls, or teeth of black bear is regulated by federal law and international treaty. If you plan to sell bear hide or parts outside of the United States, you must obtain an export permit (for a fee) from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, 1-800-358-2104. These products must be shipped through one of eleven designated ports (Boston is the nearest), or through another port under special permit (for a fee) from the same office. You do not need export permits and declarations to sell to domestic or foreign buyers within Vermont or the rest of the United States, or to sell through brokers who possess the necessary permits.

### Game Suppers

Game suppers may be held at any time by a church, volunteer fire department, fish and game club, or other nonprofit organization with a permit issued by a State Game Warden.

Wild animals and fish legally taken in this state, or another state or country, may be transported and sold as part of a game supper authorized by permit. Big game provided by the Fish & Wildlife Department may also be sold at such suppers. Migratory waterfowl, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hare, and anadromous salmon may not be sold. Permits for game suppers must state the name of the organization holding the supper, as well as the date and location of



the supper. A permit needs to be applied for at least 10 days before the date of the supper. Contact the Law Enforcement Division for a permit application at 802-828-1483.

## Transportation of Fish or Game

Transportation of fish or game is only permitted in the presence of the person who took that fish or game.

A person shall not transport fish or game:

- Taken by someone else unless the person who took the fish or game accompanies it;
- During closed season for that fish or game;
- If it exceeds the number or limit of fish or game that may legally be taken in a day.

However, a person traveling on land between a temporary abode such as a hunting camp and his or her home may transport in one day the number of fish or game that may legally be taken in two days.

## Public Use of Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Lands

Vermont Fish & Wildlife owns 92 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), two conservation camps, five fish culture stations, and other conservation lands totaling more than 135,000 acres throughout Vermont. A rule enacted in 2013 allows the department to better protect the public's use of and interests in these lands. WMAs were created for the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitats, and to provide people with opportunities to enjoy these resources through fish- and wildlife-based outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing and photography. Wildlife Management Area maps are available at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) or at VT Fish & Wildlife District Offices.

### Definitions

**Commercial activity** means any activity or service that produces income for any person, group, business or entity, including any activity or service by any non-profit entity where a fee is required or requested.

**Emergency situation** means an unintended or unforeseen situation that poses a risk to health or life of a person or animal.

### Authorized Activities

The following activities are authorized activities on all lands under this rule:

- Hunting, fishing, trapping, target shooting at *designated shooting ranges*;
- Fish and wildlife viewing and photography;

- Boating, including launching and landing, for fish-based and wildlife-based activities where not otherwise prohibited by any other relevant regulations or statutes;
- Dispersed, wildlife-based pedestrian activities including walking, snowshoeing, swimming, cross-country skiing, and collection of shed antlers;
- Non-commercial picking of berries, nuts, fungi and other wild edibles except ginseng;
- Guiding for purposes of fishing, hunting and trapping;
- Camping for purposes of hunting, fishing or trapping:
  - Non-primitive camping with a portable shelter equipped with a self-contained, portable, sanitary toilet on sites designated by the department for this purpose, for no more than 16 days during the periods of May 1-31, September 1 through December 15; See WMA maps for designated camp site locations on [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)
  - Primitive camping (occupying a site in a natural environment with no developed facilities, leaving the site in its original condition so there is no or minimal evidence of human visitation) on the following WMAs for no more than 3 consecu-

tive nights; Camp sites must be at least 200 feet from any waterbody, property line, or road within the following WMAs:

Arthur Davis, Bald Hill, Bill Sladyk, Les Newell, Pine Mountain, Plymbsbury, Roy Mountain, Steam Mill Brook, Victory Basin, West Mountain.

### Prohibited Activities:

- The operation of any ATV, UTV, or any wheeled or tracked motorized vehicle not registered for public highway use, except as provided under special permit from the Commissioner to accommodate a person with a qualified disability pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Use of motorized vehicles except on roads specifically designated for such use (see WMA maps) on [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com);
- Snowmobiling except as approved by the department and on designated corridors (see WMA maps);
- Horseback riding, dog sledding, non-motorized cycle riding, or use of motorized vehicles except on designated corridors (see WMA maps)
- Draft and pack animals, except for retrieval of legally harvested moose, deer and black bear during the respective hunting season(s);



Photo by Dennis Amsden

- Commercial activities, except for guiding for purposes of fishing, hunting and trapping, or wildlife viewing;
- Artifact or fossil collection;
- Fires except in emergency situations, or for non-primitive and primitive camping as specified in this rule;
- Abandoning, or disposing of any animal carcass, or their parts, except that portions of fish or game legally harvested on the property may be deposited on site during routine field processing for preservation and transport;
- Construction or placement of temporary or permanent structures, except for tree stands and ground blinds as specified for use on State Wildlife Management Areas under **General Hunting Information**, and duck blinds as specified under the **Game Bird Hunting** section of this guidebook;
- Collection of plants, trees, evergreen brush or limbs, except wild edibles when allowed under of this rule;
- Use of any fireworks or pyrotechnic devices except signal flares in an emergency situation;
- Feeding or baiting of wildlife;
- Taking of fish from a fish culture station except during special events established

- by the department, including but not limited to fishing derbies, clinics and educational events;
- Entering within 500 feet of any building or other associated infrastructure that is associated with a department fish culture station or conservation camp during times of the day other than those times posted for public use;
- Parking of vehicles except while engaged in an Authorized Activity;
- All other activities not specifically authorized by this rule, or authorized in writing by the Commissioner including, but not limited to: para-sailing, hang-gliding, recreational rock climbing, and geocaching.

### Shooting Ranges

The department maintains two publicly accessible shooting ranges – at Hammond’s Cove in Hartland and West Mountain in Ferdinand. Users of these ranges shall:

- Have a valid Vermont hunting, fishing or combination license as required for individuals 15 years of age and older, unless attending an event sponsored by the Department;
- Be limited to one unlicensed visitor and shall be held accountable for the visitor. All visitors shall be required to purchase his or

- her own license after 3 visits in a year.
- Obey all other range rules pertaining to safety and hours of usage, including instructions given by the range officer.
- Avoid the use of prohibited articles such as tracers, armor piercing or steel core ammunition, fireworks, pyrotechnics, or any other explosive targets, including tannerite. Firing more than one round per second is prohibited at Hammond’s Cove. Alcohol, tobacco products, and pets are also prohibited on the range.
- Be accompanied by an individual over the age of 18 if aged 15 or younger, unless at an official department-sponsored event.

The Hammonds Cove Shooting Range is open to the public April 1 to December 14, Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., except Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The range is closed on state and federal holidays. The West Mountain Shooting Range is open to the public April 16 to December 14, weekdays from 8 a.m. to sunset, and weekends from 9 a.m. to sunset.

## OUR 54 NATURAL AREAS ARE OPEN FOR HUNTING

The Nature Conservancy owns and manages natural areas throughout Vermont. We protect the lands and waters that provide the habitat for Vermont’s wildlife.



To learn more, visit: [www.nature.org/vthunting](http://www.nature.org/vthunting)



### REPORT FERAL SWINE SIGHTINGS

Feral swine come in many colors and shapes but are most often black or brown and weigh anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds. They leave behind unique signs, such as rooting, wallows and tree rubs, and have tracks similar to deer, although swine hoofs are rounder in overall shape and tend to be more splayed and blunt at the tips than deer tracks.

Report sightings to USDA Wildlife Services by calling 1-800-472-2437 or emailing [fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)





## HUNTING IN VERMONT

# Where Can I Hunt in Vermont?

**V**ermonters have a proud heritage of living close to the land in our very rural state. Hunting is a way of life here. In fact, the Vermont Constitution guarantees the right to hunt. Article 67 states “The inhabitants of this State shall have liberty in seasonable times, to hunt and fowl on the lands they hold, and on other lands not enclosed.” But what does that mean?

All **private land** in Vermont is open to hunters unless that land is posted against hunting. The only exception is that landowner permission is required for youth turkey and youth deer hunting. While landowner permission is not required for hunters on private lands, hunters should still ask the permission of the landowner before proceeding. Hunters who treat the land and landowner with respect usually find that landowners are happy to grant permission.

Visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for tips on hunting on private land.

Vermont has more than 800,000 acres of federal and state public land open to hunting; **National Wildlife Refuges**, the **Green Mountain National Forest**, and all **state forests**. **State parks** are open to hunting outside the operating season.

Perhaps the crown jewel of hunting in Vermont is the state’s system of **Wildlife Management Areas**, or **WMAs**. All WMAs are open to hunting, trapping, fishing and other wildlife-related outdoor activities except in specifically designated areas. Check out the WMA maps on the Fish & Wildlife website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)), and in the “Guide to Wildlife Management Areas of Vermont” guidebook, available through the online store.

To learn more about Vermont hunting, check our website, call (802) 828-1000, or ‘like’ our Facebook page.



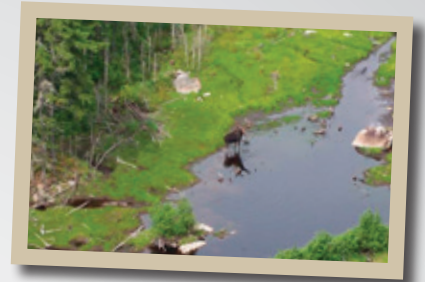
Photo by Nicole Meier



## CHANGING LANDSCAPE

# Habitat and Wildlife

How Vermont's changing landscape has affected wildlife in the past – and continues to do so



**H**ealthy wildlife populations are a direct result of healthy wildlife habitat, including game species that hunters and trappers enjoy. But Vermont's habitat has not always been healthy enough to support many of the species of wildlife that are common today. And without continued efforts to conserve habitat by Vermont's landowners—both public and private—wildlife may once again face threats to their continued survival.

## The early days: Habitat destruction and extinction

The 1800s saw a massive boom in the human population in Vermont, fueled in large part by sheep farmers looking to cash in on a boom in the global wool market. These farmers cleared the landscape, reducing Vermont's forest cover from over 90 percent to around 25 percent. Hillsides eroded, choking the streams with silt and dams plugged up rivers, nearly wiping out many species of fish. The lack of forested habitat, combined with unregulated hunting and trapping, resulted in the near total loss of many species we now consider common in Vermont, including deer, turkeys, moose, bear, Canada geese, and otters, as well as others that are still slowly recovering like muskies, bald eagles, and marten. Some of the species lost in that era have not returned to Vermont, such as mountain lions, wolves, or the now-extinct passenger pigeon.

## From Farms to Forests

By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Vermont's forests were starting to recover following the abandonment of hillside farms due to a period of emigration from Vermont and the onset of manufacturing. As fallow fields grew into young forests, habitat for those wildlife benefitting from young forests (deer, ruffed grouse, rabbits) improved dramatically.

In 1878, 17 white-tailed deer were brought to Vermont from New York and stocked in Bennington and Rutland Counties. By the mid-1900s, Vermont's landscape was at its peak in quality for these "early successional" species and their harvest rates was evidence of such. The newly formed Fish and Game Service—a precursor to the modern Fish & Wildlife Department—continued to reintroduce other species as the forests matured and expanded, including beavers, geese, fisher, and wild turkeys.

## Vermont's Habitat Today

Vermont's forested habitat continues to recover until the past decade, when, for the first time in nearly 150 years, forest cover has again reached a peak and has started to decline in the state. The maturing forests now best serve a different set of wildlife species such as black bears, pine marten, and squirrels.

The return of the forests in Vermont does provide both opportunities and challenges. Managing forests for habitat diversity by providing a range of younger and older aged forests will serve a greater range of Vermont's wildlife species' needs. The challenges, however, include an expanding human population and infrastructure, climate change, and invasive species—all of which threaten the long-term health of Vermont's forested habitats. These habitat challenges will take more than cutting trees to combat. Combined with state forests, state wildlife management areas, and Green Mountain National Forest, more than 15 percent of the land in Vermont is now permanently conserved. But that still leaves the vast majority of lands in Vermont in private hands. Private landowners will be crucial to maintaining healthy and connected forests and waters for fish and wildlife to continue to thrive, now and in the future.



Credit: Harvard dioramas

Adapted from a 2017 article from the Burlington Free Press by Tom Rogers.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

# Hunt, Post, Share, Like

## Presenting a positive image of hunting in the social media era

**F**or a hunter or trapper, there may be nothing more self-fulfilling than the successful harvest of a game animal that you have pursued. But before you post about your success on social media, stop and ask yourself a few simple questions. Am I displaying a positive, ethical image of hunting? Am I showing the respect I have for the animal I just harvested? Social media may be many people's only exposure to hunting, and thus may be their sole source for forming an impression of this activity. Most hunters are mindful and ethical, but a single negative post can be spread across Vermont and create a negative impression of hunting.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife suggests the following tips to accurately reflect a positive hunting experience in social media. These tips are equally important for trappers.

1. Display respect for the animal in its life and in its death. Ask yourself if your non-hunting friends would view the photo as respectful of this animal's life.
2. Make sure the animal looks its best. Place the tongue back in mouth and try to minimize blood in the photo to instead focus on the beauty of the animal. Try to take a photo of a successful hunt in the animal's natural habitat. Blue sky, forest, and mountains places hunting in the context of its natural surroundings
3. Don't just post 'grab and grin' photos after a successful hunt. Show all the aspects of the hunt to give people a more complete picture of what hunting means to you. Post photos of a silent snowy forest or quality time spent outdoors with friends and family.
4. Include posts from after the hunt too. A photo of you enjoying a plate of tasty venison with friends and family will help people make the connection that wild meat is a healthy, local, sustainable food source.
5. If you see friends posting unethical behavior, don't be afraid to speak up. Please forward any posts that include illegal activity to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Facebook page so our wardens can look into it.

If done properly, social media can be a great opportunity to show non-hunters why you are passionate about hunting and to inspire conversation and spark interest.



# Youth Hunting: Lifelong Pursuit

Vermont makes it easy for families to take time out and focus on young hunters by offering special youth seasons



## Hunter Education: The First Step

No matter their age, all aspiring hunters, bowhunters and trappers must first successfully complete their respective hunter education course before purchasing their first license. The courses are free, led by certified volunteer instructors, and open to all ages and experience levels. The courses include basic firearm, bowhunter, combination hunter-bowhunter, and trapper education. Though available year-around, most courses are offered between August and October. All courses include a hands-on field day. Finding a course is easy using

online registration. Just pick your desired class type, and sign up! You can even search by location or date for specific classes in your area. Check back frequently as the website is updated often when new courses are scheduled. Bookmark this link for all our course listings: [www.register-ed.com/programs/vermont](http://www.register-ed.com/programs/vermont)

**To find a course or for more information visit us online:**  
[www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunter\\_education](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunter_education)

## GIVING BACK

### Mentoring Young Hunters

A youngster's first hunt can mark the beginning of a lifelong passion for the outdoors and a commitment to wildlife conservation.

To make the most of your time together:

- **Hunt Safe.** Youth hunters are among the safest hunters when accompanied by an alert mentor.
- **Go often.** Don't just hunt the youth weekends. Lifelong hunting participation is directly related to the amount of time spent hunting in youth, especially when this experience occurs with a family member or mentor.
- **Hunt Smart.** Scouting and range practice are necessary and exciting ingredients in any successful hunt.
- **Model Behavior.** Safe and responsible hunters are mentored by safe and responsible hunters.
- **Have Fun!** Being with family and friends, and generally having a good time, is more important to youth hunters than harvesting game. Don't push too hard but help young hunters learn to appreciate the special opportunity that hunting offers. Above all, young hunters need positive reinforcement and encouragement.



### Homestudy Option

Most courses are offered in a homestudy format to meet the needs of today's busy lifestyles. Rather than attending a series of classroom lectures, students complete a workbook or an online course before attending a field day.

### Youth Season: Special Opportunities to Hunt

The department offers three special youth-only hunting seasons—spring turkey, waterfowl and deer—to ensure young hunters get the quality training they need from experienced hunters. These special, weekend-long seasons increase confidence in the hands-on use of firearms, reinforce the principles of hunting safety and promote interest in hunting and wildlife conservation. Most importantly, they take place under the supervision of an experienced, unarmed mentor. Being with family and friends is the most important reason why kids hunt and hunting regularly during one's youth leads to lifelong hunting participation. These seasons are helping to produce confident, avid young hunters who go on to become successful, enthusiastic adult hunters.



## SAFE HUNTING

### Four Basic Rules of Safe Hunting:

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Point your gun in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.



# OPERATION GAME THIEF 911 FOR WILDLIFE



*The future of Vermont's fish and wildlife depends on all of us.*

To report a fish or wildlife violation call



**1-800-75ALERT**

or visit our website



[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

## DON'T BRING FIREWOOD INTO VERMONT: IT'S THE LAW

# BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

### Tree-killing pests can hitchhike on your firewood!

Pests like the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle threaten our trees, forests, and communities. New infestations can spread by the movement of firewood.

### Protect the places you love:

- Buy local or heat-treated firewood
- Be aware of firewood laws
- Tell your friends



For Vermont firewood information visit:

[firewood.vt.gov](http://firewood.vt.gov)

# General Hunting Information

## Fluorescent Orange

Hunter orange is not required by law in Vermont, but wearing it might save your life. Almost all of Vermont's hunting-related shooting accidents would have been prevented if the hunters had been wearing hunter orange.

A New York study found that 94 percent of hunters involved in mistaken for game accidents were not wearing hunter orange. This is even more startling when you consider that 81% of New York hunters wear hunter orange.

Most states and Canadian provinces require it for hunting upland and big game animals.

Wearing at least a fluorescent orange hat and vest will help other hunters see you. It's your responsibility to follow the four basic rules of safe hunting:

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Point your gun in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.

## Machine Guns & Autoloading Rifles & Suppressors

It is illegal while hunting in Vermont to use, carry, or have in your possession a machine gun of any kind or description or an autoloading rifle with a magazine capacity of over 6 cartridges, except a .22 caliber rifle using rimfire cartridges, or a gun suppressor.

"Gun suppressor" means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

## Handguns

Wherever a rifle may be used in hunting, a handgun is permitted.

## Muzzleloaders

Muzzleloading rifles, shotguns and pistols may be used for hunting whenever modern firearms may be used. See muzzleloader deer season for more information.

## Bow and Arrow, Crossbows

Unless otherwise provided, any game which may be taken by shooting may be taken by use of bow and arrow. Airbows are not an authorized means of take under Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board rules.

All arrows, including crossbow arrows, must have an arrowhead of at least 7/8 of an inch and at least two cutting sides.

A crossbow may be used as a means of take by any person 50 years of age or older, or anyone with a disability permit during any hunting season that permits the use of a bow and arrow with the following exceptions:

- Any person wishing to hunt **turkey** with a crossbow or bow and arrow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner.

- At the time of **moose** permit issuance, archery moose season permit recipients and designated subpermittees must show proof of having held an archery deer license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner. Archery moose season permit recipients and designated subpermittees must also have a Vermont big game hunting license.
- A crossbow may not be transported cocked in a motor vehicle.

## Lights/Laser Sights

It is illegal to intentionally throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, jack, or other artificial light on any highway, or any field, woodland, or forest, in order to spot, locate, take, or attempt to spot, locate or take any wild animal.

A light may be used to illuminate and shoot a raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the raccoon hunting season. A light may also be used to illuminate a raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the raccoon training season.

**Laser sights** are illegal for hunting.



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## Hunting Hours

### Waterfowl & Other Migratory Birds

See the Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Birds In Vermont available each year in September.

### Turkey

- **Youth Turkey**— One-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m.
- **Spring**—One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.
- **Fall**—One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

### Raccoon

Any hour within hunting season.

### Coyote

Any hour, no lights allowed.

### All Others

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

## Motor Vehicles, ATVs, Snowmobiles, Road Hunting

### State Lands

Motor vehicles, including ATVs (all terrain vehicles) motorcycles, or snowmobiles are not permitted on state lands, except on designated trails on which motor vehicles are explicitly authorized.

### Private Lands

It is illegal to operate an ATV or snowmobile on any privately owned land or body of private water unless the operator has written permission of the owner or is a member of a club which has landowner permission. It is illegal to obstruct private driveways, barways, or gateways with a motor vehicle. It is illegal to park or drive a snowmobile, ATV, or motor vehicle of any kind on private land without permission.

### Hunting from Motor Vehicle

It is illegal to take any wild animal by shooting with firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow from any motor vehicle. Motor vehicles include cars, trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs, motorboats, airplanes and any conveyance or trailer towed by these.

### Permanently Disabled Hunters

A permanently disabled hunter with a proper permit may hunt from a stationary boat, or a motor vehicle that is at least 10 feet from the traveled portion of the road and when he or she has the landowner's permission to park. Shooting across the road is prohibited. Contact Fish & Wildlife at 802-828-1190.

### Transporting Firearms & Crossbows in Motor Vehicles

A person shall not carry or possess while in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within the right of way of a public highway a rifle or shotgun containing a loaded cartridge or shell in the chamber, mechanism, or in a magazine or clip within a rifle or shotgun, or a muzzleloading rifle or muzzleloading shotgun that has been charged with powder and projectile and the ignition system of which has been enabled by having an affixed or attached percussion cap, primer, battery, or priming powder. Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, ATV, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle.

### Road Hunting

A person shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow while on the traveled portion of any public highway (class 1, 2, 3, or 4), nor within 25 feet of a class 1, 2, or 3 public highway as designated on a town highway map. It is illegal to shoot a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow over or across the travelled portion of a public highway. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.

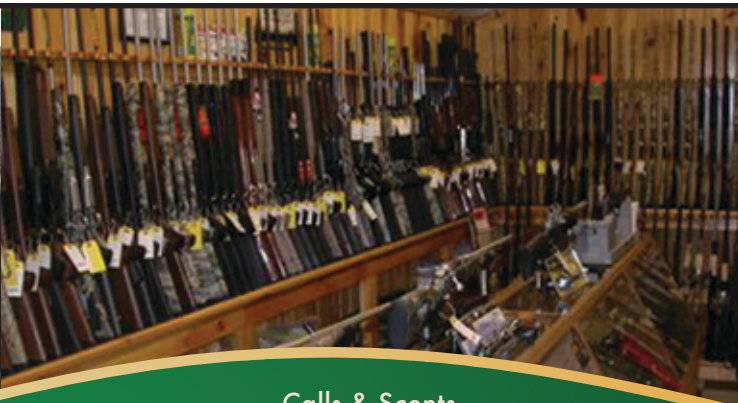
### Aerial Hunting

It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take wild animals while a person is in an aircraft. Aircraft includes, but is not limited to, planes and helicopters.

It shall be unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take wild animals by use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or drone. "Drone" means any device capable of flying in the air which is remotely, automatically or otherwise piloted without an occupant.

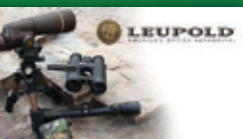
It is unlawful for any person to use an aerial vehicle, drone or unmanned aircraft to:

- Attempt to locate, surveil, or aid or assist in attempting to locate or surveil any wild animal for the purpose of taking or attempting to take a wild animal; or
- Communicate the location of any wild animal to any person on the ground for the purpose of taking or attempting to take a wild animal; or
- Drive, harass, or otherwise assist or aid in the taking or attempting to take a wild animal.



### Calls & Scents

Hunting & Fishing Licenses • Official VT Weigh Station  
Skeet Accessories • Scopes, Binoculars & Cameras  
Gun Safes, Blinds & Tree Stands • Muzzleloaders,  
Supplies & Accessories • Good Selection of New/Used  
Rifles & Handguns • Ice Fishing Accessories including  
Augers & Shanties • Slings, Swivels, Holsters, Belts &  
Pouches • Knives and Gun Cleaning Products



## Dogs

### Deer and Moose

Dogs may not be used in taking deer or moose. Dog owners are responsible for keeping their dogs restricted so they cannot take or harass deer or moose at any time of year. Dogs may be shot by wardens and certain other law officers when the dogs are caught harassing deer or moose and the dog owner may be fined and have sporting licenses revoked.

### Training Hunting Dogs

A person with a hunting license may train a dog to hunt and pursue the species listed below during the specified times:

- **Bear:** Permit Required — June 1 to September 15, sunrise to sunset; see additional regulations; non-resident bear hunters can train dogs in Vermont only if their home state has a concurrent training season. See new bear hound information, page 31.
- **Rabbits, hare and game birds:** June 1 to the last Saturday in September, from sunrise to sunset;
- **Raccoon:** June 1 through the day before the opening day of raccoon hunting season, any time of day or night;

- **Fox and bobcat:** June 1 to March 15, except during regular deer season.

By Fish & Wildlife permit, a person with a hunting license, may train and condition a hunting dog to hunt and pursue game from the second Monday in March to June 1 from sunrise to sunset inside an area fenced sufficiently to contain the breed of dogs being trained or conditioned. An agent of the commissioner must inspect this fenced area before a permit may be issued. The owner, trainer or handler must accompany dogs being trained or conditioned inside the fence.

A person training a hunting dog may possess a handgun while training, provided that the person shall not take game by any method. A long gun may not be carried while training a dog with game.

### Leashed Tracking Dog to Recover Deer or Bear

A hunter who believes he or she has legally killed or wounded a deer or bear during hunting season may engage a person who has a "Leashed Tracking Dog Certificate" issued by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to track and recover the animal during the season or within 24 hours after the season ends. Except as otherwise permitted in bear hunting, no person may use a dog

to track dead or wounded deer or bear. A permitted bear houndsman may not pursue any bear for any hunter beyond a half-hour after sunset.

Applications for the "Leashed Tracking Dog Certificate" cost \$25.00. First-time leashed tracking dog certificates, valid for five years, cost \$100.00 for residents and \$200.00 for nonresidents. Applicants must pass a test. Renewal certificates are \$125.00 for residents and \$225.00 for nonresidents.

## Tree Stands & Ground Blinds

### Blinds protected

It is illegal to damage or remove another person's legally erected blind.

### Private Land

A person must have the landowner's permission to build, erect, maintain, use or occupy a permanent or portable tree stand or ground blind for any purpose on any private land in Vermont. Anyone who builds, erects, or maintains a tree stand or ground blind shall permanently mark the stand or blind with the owner's name and address. Marking must be legible

*"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." —Aldo Leopold*

## VERMONT HABITAT STAMP

Your 2018 Vermont Habitat Stamp contributes directly to conserving and improving Vermont Wildlife Management Areas.

And you provide access to places to hunt, fish, trap, view and enjoy wildlife and wild places, now and forever.

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[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)





and placed so it can be read conveniently and easily. This does not apply to a landowner who builds, erects, or maintains a tree stand or ground blind on his or her own land. It is illegal to use someone else's stand or blind without landowner permission.

**State Wildlife Management Areas**

Permanent tree stands and ground blinds are prohibited on state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Temporary tree stands and ground blinds are allowed without written permission from the department from the third Sunday in August through the third Saturday in December, May 1-31 (dates inclusive), or during any Youth Hunting Day or Youth Hunting Weekend. Blinds used during any other time (for wildlife viewing or photography) may be erected and used with prior written permission from the District Manager of the WMA. For information on placement of blinds on or in waters of the state for the purpose of waterfowl hunting, see *Duck Blinds* under the **Game Bird Hunting** section.

Temporary blinds on state WMAs must be constructed according to the following requirements:

- No damage may be done to any living tree in erecting, maintaining, using or accessing the stand or blind except that:

- Dead limbs, trees or shrubs may be removed as needed to erect and use the stand or blind;
- No live limbs, trees or shrubs may be cut for any purpose except those one inch or less in diameter at either ground level or from the main stem or branch of the tree where the stand or blind is located as appropriate (for guidance, a United States quarter is 0.9 inch in diameter);
- No nails, bolts, screws (including access steps), wire, chain or other material that penetrates through a living tree's bark into the wood below shall be used in erecting, attaching, maintaining or using any stand or blind;
- All tree stands or ground blinds used on wildlife management areas must be clearly, permanently and legibly marked with the owner's name and address. The marking must be placed in a manner that enables it to be read conveniently and easily.
- Tree stands and ground blinds that do not conform to this regulation are prohibited and may be confiscated and/or destroyed by the department. Building, erecting, maintaining, using or occupying a non-conforming tree stand or ground blind is

prohibited. Construction of any tree stand or ground blind does not confer exclusive use of its location to the person who built it. Any person may use that location for purposes consistent with this rule.

**Boating**

**NEW THIS YEAR** Boat owners are required to inspect their boats and remove aquatic plants when entering and leaving waters, and to drain ballast tanks and bilge waters when transporting vessels. Law enforcement officers may issue tickets for violations of Vermont's aquatic invasive species laws.



“Celebrate the deer hunting tradition by attending a



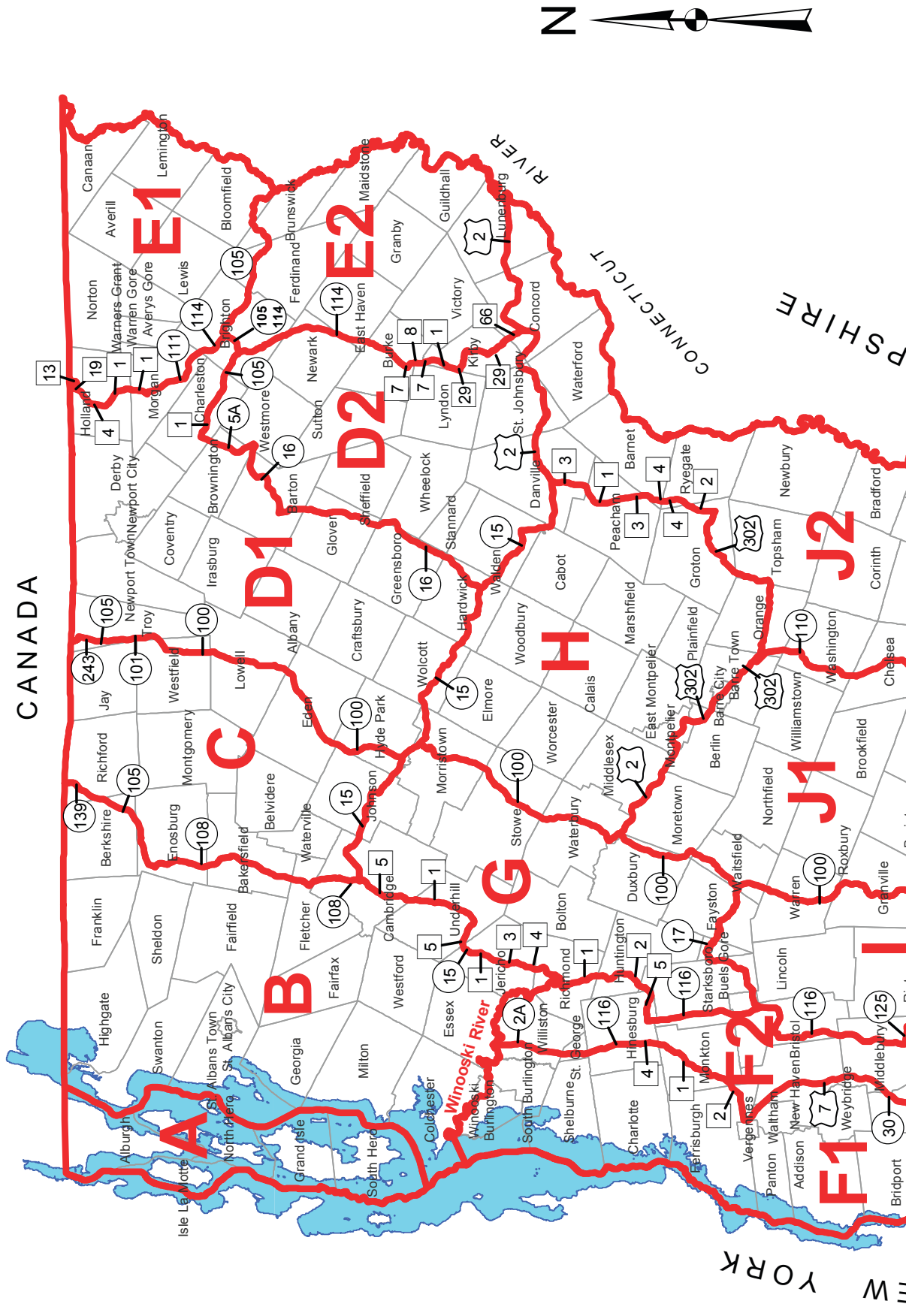
event near you.”

~ Travis “T-Bone” Turner

Whitetails Unlimited spokesperson and co-host of Michael Waddell’s *Bone Collector* TV Show.

For information, please call WTU’s New England Field Director Bill Bailey at (413) 244-2304. [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)

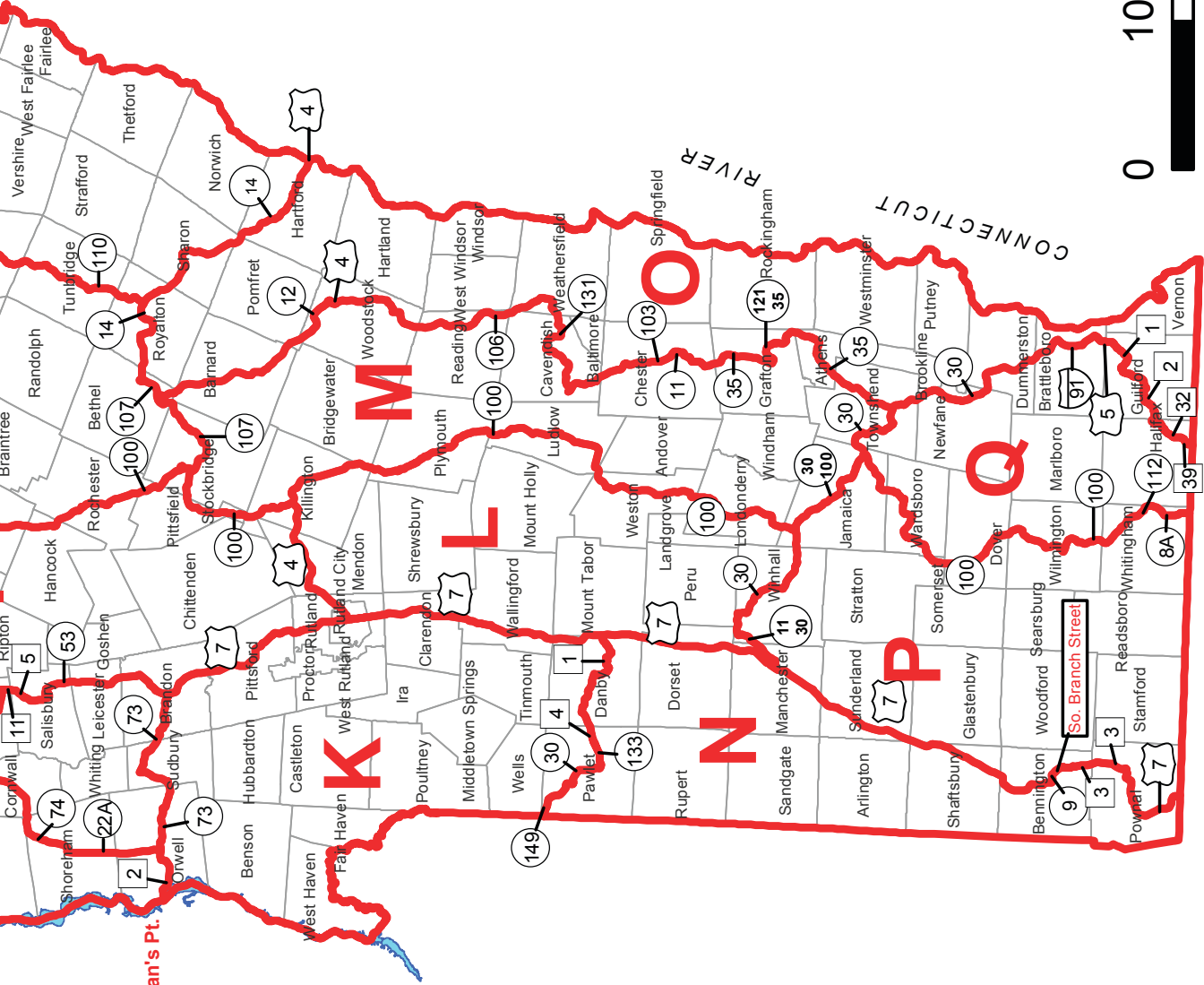
# Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Map











NEW HAMPSHIRE



Chipman's Pt.

## (Bounded by Indicated VT. Highways)

For WMU boundary descriptions visit our website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

-  Interstate Highway
-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway
-  Town Highway



MASSACHUSETTS

# Big Game Hunting

## Definition

Deer, bear, moose, wild turkey, caribou, elk, and anadromous Atlantic salmon (taken in the Connecticut River Basin) are considered “big game.”

## Tagging

A big game animal must immediately be tagged when taken. The tag shall be placed on the carcass in a location that is open to view and shall remain there during possession and transportation, until the animal is cut up for consumption. Either a paper tag or durable tag may be used. Any tag used must include the information (name or Conservation ID number) on the tag identifying the person that took the animal before transporting the carcass.

## Reporting

A person taking big game shall within 48 hours report the taking and exhibit the carcass to the nearest game warden, official Fish & Wildlife Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive the reports. No big game carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

## Biological Information

Proper management of big game populations requires the collection of critical biological data that is used to estimate the size and health of the populations. Successful hunters need to make every effort to provide this information when reporting a big game animal.

## Transporting

It is illegal to transport big game taken by any illegal means, or taken in closed season. Deer do not need to be visible when transported. A person shall not transport game taken by someone else unless the person who took the game accompanies it.

All other regulations regarding the transportation of fish or game apply to the transportation of big game. Transporting parts of big game is prohibited unless the parts or the package containing them are marked with the name and address of the person who killed the animal(s).

## Importing

In order to legally transport into Vermont and possess big game that was legally taken in another state or country, a person must keep the tag that is required by the state or the country where the big game was taken. Each package of meat must be marked with the name of the person who took the animal, tag number, date, and state or country of origin.

### Rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and captive hunt areas or farms:

It is illegal to import or possess legally taken deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states

and Canadian provinces that have, or have had Chronic Wasting Disease, or from any captive hunt or farm facilities, regardless of its disease history, with the following exceptions:

- Meat that is boneless.
- Hides or capes with no part of the head attached.
- Clean skull-cap with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no other meat or tissue attached.
- Finished taxidermy heads.
- Upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

**Other fish or game** legally taken in another state or country may be possessed and transported into Vermont in the presence of the person who took that fish or game.

## Illegal Means of Taking

The following means of taking big game are not allowed: baiting, snares, traps, salt licks, jacks or other lights.

It is illegal to use a dog to hunt big game. Hunters are also prohibited from harboring or possessing while hunting a dog used for this purpose. Exceptions for hunting black bear and wild turkey with dogs are provided in Fish & Wildlife rules.

## Possession

Legally taken big game may be possessed during the open season and for a reasonable time after the season has closed.

It is illegal to possess big game taken by any illegal devices or, any big game taken in closed season.

Any part of the carcass of legally taken big game may be possessed at any time in cans or in a cold storage locker or home freezer.

## DURABLE VT BIG GAME TAGS

available at  
License Agents Statewide

**VERMONT TRANSPORTATION TAG**

1. Fill out all information below
2. Affix tag to animal (circle one)
 

deer
 bear
 turkey
3. Transport to nearest Game Check Station.
 

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

 Address \_\_\_\_\_
 

Conservation ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Report Poachers  
To report fish and wildlife violations and remain anonymous call:  
**OPERATION GAME THIEF**  
1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-6378) or web  
<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com>

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**Big Game Biological Data Needed**

Please provide all biological data, including a tooth from black bears and info from white-tailed deer, to designated big game reporting stations. This data is critical to the sound management of Vermont's big game populations.

OPTIONAL TAG

## Optional Vermont Big Game Tag

Optional Vermont Big Game Tags are available free from license agents as durable alternatives to the paper tags on licenses. Optional tags may be used to tag deer, bear, turkeys, or moose. Record your CONSERVATION ID number (top left corner of your license) on the Optional Big Game Tag. A qualifying landowner may use the tag by writing “landowner” in the same space.

The existing paper tag that comes with a license may also be used. Optional Big Game Tags may only be used by a person who has purchased the appropriate license and tag for the species they are hunting.



# Deer Hunting

**Vermont has high-quality deer hunting** due to a rural landscape, good habitat, lots of public and private land open to hunting, regulations allowing ample opportunities to hunt with archery, rifle, and muzzleloader, and plenty of deer.

The greatest deer densities are found in the northwest and southwest corners of the state and a few places along the Connecticut River. Generally, the Green Mountain range and the Northeast Kingdom have fewer deer but more remote country for hunters who like to get into bigger woods.

Vermont has a three-deer annual limit, only two of which may be legal bucks which must be taken during different seasons. Two archery licenses are allowed in archery season. November brings a youth weekend and the traditional 16-day rifle season for bucks with at least one antler having two or more points one inch or longer. A hunting license comes with a buck tag for the November rifle season. The muzzleloader season offers more deer hunting opportunity in early December with an additional muzzleloader license. Check for latest regulations at our website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## Deer Limits and Regulation Updates

Deer regulations are usually updated annually. The deer permit numbers for antlerless deer hunting for each WMU are issued in the late spring or early summer. After public notice and hearings, the Board lists the Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) that are open for antlerless deer hunting during archery season and during muzzleloader season by a lottery for a limited number of permits. Check the Fish & Wildlife website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) for these and other new regulations.

## Annual Deer Limit

A person shall not take more than three deer in a calendar year, only two of which may be "legal bucks" (See definition below). Legal bucks must be taken during different seasons. A hunter may take no more than one legal buck per season (youth, archery, rifle, muzzleloader). Although archery season is divided into an early and late portion, it is considered a single season.

## Hunting Hours

Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

## Tagging Deer

Deer must be tagged immediately when taken. The tag must be placed on the carcass open to view and remain there until the carcass is cut up for consumption.

## Reporting Deer

A person taking deer shall within 48 hours report the taking and exhibit the carcass to the nearest game warden, official Fish & Wildlife

Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive the reports. No deer carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

## Biological information

Deer hunters can contribute valuable information for the management of Vermont's deer herd by 1) completing the annual rifle season hunter effort surveys should they receive one in the mail, 2) reporting their deer at select biological check stations during the youth and rifle season weekend, and 3) collecting a tooth from their deer during rifle season. This will enable biologists to record key information such as age, antler characteristics, and health of the harvested deer.

## Transporting Deer

A tagged deer may be transported only during the open season and for 20 days thereafter.

Deer may be legally transported only under these conditions:

- By the person who shot the deer.
- When accompanied by the person who shot the deer (including moving the deer from kill-site to camp or motor vehicle).

- By a person who holds a mentored hunting license, unaccompanied by the fully licensed adult hunter.
- When transported by common carrier (for example, a shipping company) and tagged with the name of the sender and receiver, name of station shipped from and its destination.

The appropriate deer tag must be securely attached to the deer in these circumstances.

When transporting parts of a deer, the parts or package must be marked with name and address of the person who killed the deer.

Deer do not need to be visible when transported.

Also, see the Transporting and Importing sections under Big Game and the general transporting section.

## Baiting Deer and Deer Lures

It is illegal to hunt or take any wild animal by using bait during any deer hunting season, except that trappers may use bait in taking furbearers. Bait is defined as any animal, vegetable, fruit or mineral matter placed with the intention of attracting wildlife. Artificial scents and lures are legal, provided they are not designed to



Photo by Dylan Smith

be consumed by eating or licking. Deer lures containing any cervid urine, blood, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids, are illegal to use in Vermont.

It is illegal to take deer by using bait with the following exceptions:

- Incidental feeding of wildlife within active livestock operations;
- Standing crops planted and left standing as food plots for wildlife;
- Grain or other feed scattered or distributed solely as a result of normal agricultural, gardening, or soil stabilization, and logging practices; and
- Vegetation or food/seed naturally deposited.

## Feeding Deer

It is illegal to feed wild deer at any time except:

- Under a license or permit issued by Fish & Wildlife for scientific research, mitigation of wildlife damage or nuisance problems, or wildlife population reduction programs;
- By planting, cultivating or harvesting of crops directly associated with agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots.

## Swimming Deer

It is illegal to take a deer that is swimming in any lake, pond, river or other body of water.

## Definitions of Terms for Deer Seasons

### Legal Buck

A white-tailed deer with at least one antler having two or more points.

### Point

An antler projection of at least one inch measured from its base at the main beam to its tip. A broken main beam shall count as a point, regardless of length.



### Antlerless Deer

Those deer without antlers or with antlers less than three (3) inches in length.

## Spike Yearlings Protected

Deer with spike antlers may not be taken except during Youth Deer Hunting Weekend and only if allowed annually by the Fish & Wildlife Board.

## Bow & Arrow Deer Season — Oct. 6 – Nov. 2 & Dec. 1 – 9, 2018

### Licenses

Any person wishing to hunt deer with a bow and arrow during archery deer season must have an archery license/tag. A hunting or combination hunting and fishing license is required in addition to an archery license, except for nonresident archery-only deer license.

### Limit

No more than two deer may be taken during the archery season only one of which may be a legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit. One legal buck may be taken during the two-part October and December archery season anywhere in the state. For purposes of the one legal buck annual archery season limit, the October and December seasons are considered one season and hunters may take only one legal buck during the entire season. In 2017, all WMUs were open to the taking of antlerless deer during archery season. Check Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) in August to see which WMUs are open to antlerless deer hunting in archery season.

Deer must be taken by bow (long bow, recurve bow or compound bow) and arrows or with crossbow by a person 50 years of age or older, or by crossbow by a person with a disability permit. The arrowhead must be at least 7/8 of an inch in width with two or more cutting edges.

**It is illegal to carry a rifle, shotgun or muzzle-loader while archery hunting deer in the bow and arrow season.**

A hunter may possess a pistol or revolver while archery hunting. The pistol or revolver MAY NOT be used to take game or dispatch the deer.

### Crossbows

A crossbow may be used by anyone 49 years of age or younger with a crossbow disability permit or by anyone 50 years of age or older to take any game that may be taken by bow and arrow. The crossbow disability permit is issued to a person so physically impaired that he or she cannot operate a standard bow and allows that person to hunt with a crossbow. A permit applicant must produce a licensed physician's certificate certifying that the disability requires the use of a crossbow. Obtain an application from Fish & Wildlife before visiting your doctor. Applicant must also appear before a state game warden to obtain a crossbow license. Be sure to make an appointment ahead of time.

Unless it is uncocked, it is illegal to possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motor boat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle.

### Recovery of Bow & Arrow Deer After Hours

Contact a licensed leashed dog tracker to pursue and recover a deer wounded with an arrow after the close of legal shooting time. In the alternative, a hunter must secure permission from the state game warden by calling the nearest state police office, giving the exact location and circumstances. Any recovered deer must be tagged, reported and exhibited to the nearest game warden.

## Youth Deer Hunting Weekend — Nov. 3 – 4, 2018

Vermont's youth deer hunting weekend is on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the opening of the regular November rifle deer season.

A resident or nonresident youth, 15 years of age or younger on the weekend of the hunt, who has successfully completed a hunter safety course must obtain a free youth deer hunting tag to hunt during this season. The youth must also purchase a Vermont youth hunting license at a license agent by either showing proof of satisfactorily completing the hunter safety course or proof of having held a valid hunting license previously. The youth hunter's parent or guardian must sign the hunting license application in the presence of the license agent.

When hunting, the youth hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 18 years of age who holds a valid Vermont hunting license. The adult may accompany no more than two youth hunters at any given time. The adult must have **direct control and supervision**, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

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**Landowner permission is required by law** in order to hunt on private land with a youth deer tag during youth deer weekend. All relevant game laws and regulations apply during the **Youth Deer Hunting Weekend**, including the prohibition on baiting and road hunting. Landowners are not exempt from the requirement to purchase tags to hunt on their own property on youth weekends.

A Vermont youth deer hunting tag is valid for one deer on youth deer hunting weekend in accordance with the rules of the Fish & Wildlife Board announced annually.

The amount of a fine will be doubled for a violation on Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

## November Rifle Deer Season — Nov. 10 – 25, 2018

### Limit

One legal buck with at least one antler having two or more points may be taken anywhere in

the state. A person shall not take more than three white-tailed deer in a year in all deer hunting seasons, only two of which may be legal bucks.

## Muzzleloader Deer Season — Dec. 1 – 9, 2018

### Licenses

Muzzleloader license and hunting license required.

### Limit

One legal buck with at least one antler having two or more points may be taken anywhere in the state. In addition, with an antlerless permit issued by the department, a person may take an antlerless deer within the authorized WMU. No more than two deer may be taken total, and a second deer may only be taken by hunters possessing an antlerless muzzleloader deer permit.

### Definition of Muzzleloading Firearm

A single-shot, single-barrel rifle or smooth-bore firearm with a minimum barrel length

of 20 inches, designed to be fired from the shoulder or a single-shot pistol with a minimum barrel length of 10 inches. Both rifle and pistol must be incapable of being loaded from the breach without the use of tools, and must have a minimum bore diameter of 0.43 inches and an ignition system of traditional or modern flintlock, caplock, matchlock, in-line or wheellock style.

### Definition of Ammunition for Muzzleloaders

Black powder or other suitable non-smokeless propellant, and a single ball or bullet.

### Definition of Loaded Muzzleloader

The muzzleloading firearm shall be considered loaded when it has been charged with powder and projectile and is primed or capped.

### Special Provisions

A person who purchases a muzzleloader deer license shall not carry, while deer hunting during the muzzleloader deer season, any firearms other than one single-barreled muzzleloading firearm.

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- Provides instruction for trapping education courses which are required to obtain a trapping license.

**Join VTA!** Attend our Banquet held March 31, 2018 and Rendezvous/Annual Meeting held September 8–9, 2018.

**VermontTrappers.com**

# A Threat to Vermont's Deer Herd

Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a serious threat to Vermont's deer and moose populations. It is fatal to deer and is impossible to eliminate once it has been established in a population. While CWD is not known to be transmissible to humans, it has been devastating to free-ranging deer in many states and Canadian provinces.

Prevention of CWD is key. If CWD is ever discovered in a new area such as Vermont, wildlife officials must work immediately to stop it from spreading further. You can help by learning the signs of CWD and reporting sick deer to your local game warden or by calling Vermont Fish & Wildlife at 802-828-1000. Deer infected with CWD are usually weak and skinny. Other symptoms include excessive drinking and urination, drooling, listlessness, drooping ears and lowered head.

CWD is frequently spread from captive white-tailed deer. The state of Vermont prohibits captive deer or moose from entering

the state. This disease continues to spread over long distances by the movement of captive deer and elk involved in the captive deer and elk industry. There is no reliable live-test for CWD, and infected animals can appear healthy for years.

It is illegal to feed or bait deer in Vermont. Deer that are fed gather in large numbers and can quickly spread CWD and other diseases.

Restrictions apply for the importation of deer or moose carcasses or parts from states or provinces that have, or have had, CWD. To date, the disease has been documented in more than 20 states and two Canadian provinces including New York State. New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts have not documented CWD. See Importing under the **Big Game** section for details.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has been testing Vermont deer for CWD since 2002. Results indicate that Vermont is currently free of CWD.

## URINE LURES

It is illegal to use deer urine lures. They present a serious threat of introducing CWD to Vermont. CWD infectious prions can be present in deer urine lures. Use synthetic alternatives instead.

## STATES WITH CWD

### The Following States & Provinces Have or Have Had CWD

Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Other states or provinces could be added to the list during the year.



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**What a great way to spend a week this Summer!**

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Sessions run from June through August at two beautiful lake-side locations.

For more information call 802-828-1460 or visit our website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)





# Moose Hunting

**Vermont moose hunting permit lotteries** may be held for hunting permits for a 7-day archery season (Oct. 1-7) and a regular season (6 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in Oct.). Moose hunting information will be available on Fish & Wildlife's website in April. Modern, regulated moose hunting began in 1993, and since then 6,471 moose have been harvested, yielding an estimated 913 tons of boneless moose meat.

Each winter department biologists review biological data from hunter- and road-killed moose, sighting data from moose and deer hunters, and other information to develop a hunting season proposal for the Fish & Wildlife Board.

In recent years, declining moose populations have led to reductions in permit numbers and the introduction of bulls-only hunting throughout the state in order to grow regional populations.

Moose lottery winners must now wait 5 years before applying again for the moose lottery.



Photo by Brent Lafreniere

## CAUTION

### It is Unlawful to –

- Hunt or take deer, bear, turkeys or waterfowl with bait
- Feed deer or bear
- Pick up carcasses of protected wildlife
- Take game except with a gun, bow and arrow, or crossbow by permit or by a person 50 and older
- Set or use a snare
- Set or use any device to discharge a firearm for the purpose of taking any wild animal
- Take waterfowl, wild turkeys, or moose with the aid of an electronic calling device
- Use dogs to hunt deer or moose
- Use laser sights for hunting
- Cast the rays of a light in order to spot, locate, take or attempt to take any wild animal. The only exception is for raccoon hunting with a dog and only after the raccoon has been treed.
- Use planes, helicopters, or unmanned aerial drones to scout for game, hunt, or assist in hunting.

### E-mail News



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[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

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of a Lifetime**





# BE BEAR AWARE



People often encourage bears to come out of the forest by providing food without realizing it. Once bears become used to these food sources and come into frequent human contact, they are likely to become “nuisance bears.” Feeding a bear increases the bear’s chance of being struck by a vehicle, causing property damage, threatening human safety, and eventually having to be destroyed. If one individual in an area feeds bears, the bear will often cause problems in the entire neighborhood.

Purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear, **it’s also illegal.**

Vermont law also states that residents must take reasonable measures to protect their property from bears before lethal force can be taken.

## Some measures you can take to avoid creating nuisance bears:

- ❖ Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence or other bear-proof enclosure.
- ❖ Birdfeeders are the most common bear attractant. Feed birds only during the winter months, from Dec 1 to March 31.
- ❖ Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally.
- ❖ Feed your pets indoors.
- ❖ Clean outdoor grills after each use, including the grease trap underneath.
- ❖ Store bird seed, pet food, livestock feed, and bio-fuels such as grease indoors in air-tight containers.
- ❖ If you have livestock, dispose of animal carcasses immediately by burying or incinerating.
- ❖ Dispose of garbage frequently and store in bear-proof containers.
- ❖ Support state and local efforts to conserve bear habitat.

**The Fish & Wildlife Department will no longer reimburse claimants for damage by bears to livestock, fruit, or bees. Farmers will still be reimbursed as long as their land is not posted against hunting.**

It is your responsibility to avoid attracting bears. Bears are wild animals that belong in their natural habitat—the forest.

For additional information on avoiding conflicts with black bears and reporting incidents, visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website:

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



Some of the most common sources of food that attract bears are: pet food, bird feeders, barbecue grills, garbage, household trash containers, open dumpsters, and campsites with accessible food and food wastes.

## Vermont’s Bear Population

Vermont’s bear population, less than 3,000 twenty-five years ago, is now at approximately 6,000 — a successful, planned result of hunting regulation changes. The 2010-2020 Big Game Management Plan population objective is 4,500-6,000 bears. Incidents of bear damage and bear-human interactions have increased, especially in areas where few bears existed earlier. The ‘early season’ bear hunting regulation changes are intended to help stabilize the bear population while providing the Fish & Wildlife Department with information that is important in improving Vermont’s bear management program.



# Bear Hunting

**Vermont has an abundant bear population. Bears can be found all over the state** except the Champlain Islands. Your hunting license comes with a “late season bear tag” good from the first day of November rifle deer season through the second Sunday of the November rifle deer season. An “early season tag” for September 1 through the day before the first day of the November rifle deer season may be purchased separately (hunting license required).

Hunting bears over bait is prohibited. Bear dogs may be used with a permit, but no commercial guiding is allowed with bear dogs.

Some of the best bear hunting occurs in September and October when you can stalk bears by finding concentrated food sources near prime bear habitat. Early in the season, preferred foods include berries, cherries, and standing corn. As the season progresses, wild apples, beechnuts and acorns become more important. Stalking bears in a stand of nut-rich beech trees half way up a mountain on a crisp October morning is one of hunting’s most exciting challenges. The reward is also great-tasting, nutritious meat. When properly prepared, bear meat compares favorably to pork.

## General Bear Hunting Seasons—

**Early Season:**  
Sept. 1 – Nov. 9, 2018

**Late Season:**  
Nov. 10 – 18, 2018

- A hunter may take one black bear in a calendar year.
- Bears may not be taken alive.
- Bears may not be trapped.
- Hunters may not use bait or a baited area to take a bear. A “baited area” is defined as an area where any animal, vegetable, fruit, mineral matter, honey, or any other substance capable of luring or attracting bear has been placed or deposited.
- It is illegal to shoot a bear that is visiting a

bird feeder.

- It is illegal to feed bears, even when not hunting for them.
- We recommend that you do not shoot a bear with cubs or a bear with a radio collar around its neck.

## Hunting Hours

Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

## Tagging Bear

Bear must be tagged immediately when taken. The tag must be placed on the carcass open to view and remain there until the carcass is cut up for consumption.

## Reporting Bear

A person taking bear shall within 48 hours report the taking and exhibit the carcass to the nearest game warden, official Fish & Wildlife

Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive the reports. It is mandatory that the hunter provide a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the same time. No bear carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

**NEW THIS YEAR** A hunter must take a warden to the kill site of a bear if requested to do so by a warden.

**NEW THIS YEAR** Bears must be field dressed prior to reporting.

## Transporting

A tagged bear may be transported only during the open season and for 20 days thereafter. See also *Transporting* under **Big Game**.

## Use of Dogs to Hunt Bear

### Permit Required

Hunters may take bear with the use of dogs only when the person in control of the dogs has a bear-dog permit available from the Ver-



- **Protects, Restores and Manages** Wildlife & Natural Resources
- **Preserves:** Hunting including with hounds, fish, trap & own firearms
- **Promotes:** Sportsmanship and educates the public on conservation
- **Provides Tools:** For VT Fish & Wildlife Dept. for nuisance bears
- **Encourages:** Good landowner—sporting community relationships
- **Promotes Appreciation:** Of nature and working with our dogs
- **Sponsors:** VT Fish & Wildlife Green Mtn. Conservation Camps and Teachers in the Wild programs at VT Fish & Wildlife Conservation Camps
- **Donates:** To VT Fish & Wildlife a live bear trap for research & relocating bears
- **Advocates:** Removing bird feeders from April 1 thru November 30

**VERMONT BEARHOUND ASSOCIATION**  
A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION

[www.vermontbearhoundassociation.com](http://www.vermontbearhoundassociation.com)  
*Take a youth hunting, they are our future!*

## NEW THIS YEAR

Several changes were enacted to bear hunting regulations in 2018. It is now mandatory that harvested bears are field dressed prior to reporting. A warden may now request that a hunter takes the warden to the kill site of a bear. And new language clarifies and improves regulations around the use of bear hounds for hunting, as well as delaying the starting date for nonresident bear hound hunting to September 15. More specific information about changes to the bear hound regulations will be included in the information packet that accompanies a hunter’s bear hound permit.



Photo by Tom Rogers

mont Fish & Wildlife Department. The permit is required to pursue black bear with the aid of dogs for training purposes or for hunting and taking a bear. It is unlawful to shoot a bear that was pursued by dogs without a permit.

A copy of the regulation on use of dogs in bear hunting is available from Vermont Fish & Wildlife or at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Resident and nonresident permit applications also are available with the regulation.

A person shall not advertise, barter, exchange goods or services, expose or otherwise sell the use of a dog or dogs for the purpose of taking black bear. It is unlawful to take a bear that is being pursued by hounds if you are not a permit or sub-permit holder.

**NEW THIS YEAR** Non-resident bear hound hunters may not hunt in Vermont until September 15.

Additional changes to Vermont's bear hound hunting laws have been made, and will be included with information provided in a bear hound hunter's permit.

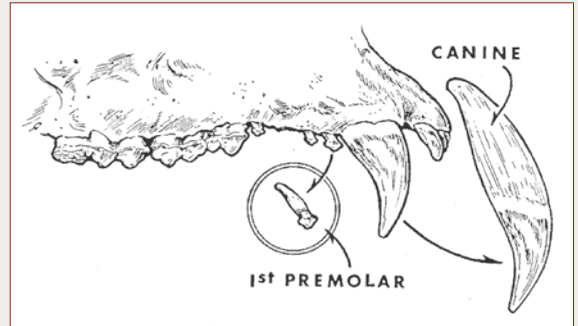
**HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?**

**Black Bear Tooth Collection is Required**

The Fish & Wildlife Department needs your help. Knowing the age of the bears that are harvested by hunters is a very important part of Vermont's scientific bear management program. Starting in 2017, a tooth is required by law to be submitted by the hunter from every bear harvested in Vermont.

Removing the bear's pre-molar tooth is easy and does not affect the mounting quality of the bear. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/BearToothRemoval> for a video on removing the pre-molar. Please ask the check station operator for a tooth envelope so you can send your bear's tooth sample to the department. Every tooth we receive from hunters helps the bear project.

You will receive the age information in the spring when the age information is returned from the lab. Thank you.



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- In Vermont, notify Dig Safe® at least 48 hours in advance - not including weekends and holidays.
- Notify non-member facility owners.
- Maintain the marks placed by underground facility owners.
- Use caution and dig by hand when working within 18" of a marked facility.
- If a line is damaged, do not backfill. Notify the affected utility company immediately if the facility, its protective coating, or a tracer wire is damaged.
- Call 911 if the damaged facility poses a risk to public safety.
- Know your state's excavation requirements. Go to [digsafe.com](http://digsafe.com) for educational material and current laws.



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# Turkey Hunting

**Wild turkeys represent one of Vermont's greatest conservation success stories.** By the mid-1800s turkeys had disappeared from the state. In 1969 and 1970, Vermont wildlife biologists live-trapped 31 wild turkeys in New York and stocked them in Pawlet and Hubbardton. Vermont now has an estimated 50,000 wild turkeys throughout most of the state.

Vermont offers some of the best turkey hunting in New England. Youth turkey hunting comes on the weekend prior to opening day of the spring turkey hunting season. The spring hunting season occurs May 1–31, with two bearded birds allowed on a turkey hunting license. The turkey hunting license also includes a fall tag for one turkey of either sex in selected Wildlife Management Units. Hunters have recently taken more than 5,000 gobblers in the spring season and more than 1,000 birds in the fall.

## License Requirements Reporting Turkey

A current hunting or combination license and current turkey license with tag are required to hunt turkey.

## Legal Methods of Taking

Only a shotgun or vertical bow and arrow may be used by any hunter. Hunters 50 years old and older and disabled hunters may use crossbows. Only number 2 through number 8 shot shall be used or possessed, and an arrowhead must be at least 7/8 of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. No person shall use electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives. No person shall use dogs in the spring season.

## Tagging

A hunter who takes a turkey shall immediately attach the proper tag to the carcass. The tag must remain on the carcass until the carcass is prepared for consumption.

## Safety

Turkey hunting requires some additional measures of safety that may not be practiced in other forms of hunting. Never stalk a gobbling turkey — your chances of getting close are poor and you may be sneaking up on another hunter.

Wear blaze orange when walking in and out of your hunting site, and wrap any turkeys you bag in blaze orange. Use only hen calls to avoid potentially attracting another hunter with a gobbler call. Sit with your back against a tree in a spot with a good field of vision, and avoid sitting in the potential line of fire should another hunter mistakenly shoot at your decoy.

A person taking turkey shall within 48 hours report the taking and exhibit the carcass to the nearest game warden, official Fish & Wildlife Department Reporting Station, or to a person designated by the commissioner to receive the reports. No turkey carcass shall be transported out of state without first being reported.

## Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend— April 28-29, 2018

Vermont's **Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend** was initiated in 2002 and has been a great success. Most recently, more than 740 turkeys were harvested by resident and nonresident youth hunters during this special weekend, which is held on the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of the spring turkey hunting season.

Any resident or nonresident youth, 15 years of age or younger on the weekend of the hunt, who has successfully completed a hunter safety course may obtain a free youth turkey hunting tag. A qualified youth must also purchase a Vermont hunting license and turkey license at a license agent by either showing proof of satisfactorily completing the hunter safety course or proof of having held a valid hunting license previously. The youth hunter's parent or guardian must sign the hunting license application in the presence of the license agent.

When hunting, the youth hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 18 years of age who holds a valid Vermont hunting license. The adult may accompany no more than two youth hunters at any given time. The adult must have **direct control and supervision**, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

**Landowner permission is required** in order to hunt on private land with a youth turkey tag. All relevant game laws and regulations apply during Youth Turkey Hunting weekend, including the prohibition on baiting and road hunting. Landowners are not exempt from the requirement to purchase tags to hunt on their own property on youth weekends.

### Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. for youth weekend only.

The youth hunter may take one bearded turkey during Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend and may also hunt during the Spring Season and take two bearded turkeys during that season. The amount of a fine will be doubled for a violation on Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the youth and who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

## Spring Turkey Season

### Spring Season

May 1–31, 2018

### Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon.

### Limit

Two bearded turkeys for the spring season.

All Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) are open to hunting during the spring season.

## Fall Turkey Season

### Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. (See *Sunrise/Sunset Tables*.)

### Limit

One turkey of either sex for the fall season.

### Dates and Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) Open to Hunting

- **Bow and Arrow only:** October 6 – 19, 2018 in all WMUs statewide
- **Shotgun or Bow and Arrow:** Oct. 20 – 28, 2018 in WMUs B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q
- **Shotgun or Bow and Arrow:** Oct. 20 – Nov. 4, 2018 WMUs F, K, and N.

# Game Bird Hunting

**Ruffed grouse are the most widely available upland game in Vermont.** Good numbers of “partridge” can be found wherever brushy forest stands provide nesting cover, protection from predators and food in the form of berries and buds. Overgrown apple orchards, abandoned hillside farms and regenerating clear cuts covered with hardwood thickets are all grouse hot spots. Although grouse are found statewide, the Northeast Kingdom offers some of the best grouse hunting.

## Seasons & Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	LIMITS
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b> (Partridge)	September 29 – December 31	4 daily; 8 possession
<b>Pheasant</b> *	September 29 – December 31	2 daily; 4 possession
<b>Bobwhite Quail</b> *	No Closed Season	No limit
<b>Chukar Partridge</b> *	No Closed Season	No limit
<b>Crow</b>	Friday – Monday only, inclusive, January 15 – April 11 and August 19 – December 19	No limit

\* Practically nonexistent except by private stocking. A permit is required from the Fish & Wildlife Department to raise and stock pheasants in Vermont.

## Definitions

The following are classified as game birds: quail, ruffed grouse, chukar partridge, woodcock, pheasant, common snipe, coot, wild ducks, wild geese, and wild turkey (which is classified as big game). Other wild birds including spruce grouse and Hungarian partridge have no open season.

## Migratory Game Bird Regulations

The Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Birds in Vermont will be available on the VTF&W website and from license agents.

## Waterfowl Hunting

Both Vermont and federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt migratory waterfowl for hunters 16 and older. Federal stamps are sold at post offices. Vermont State Migratory Waterfowl (“Duck”) Stamps are available on the Fish & Wildlife website, from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department offices and license agents for \$7.50. A state waterfowl stamp is good for the calendar year and no longer needs to be signed by the hunter. Note that the federal waterfowl stamp must be signed.

Before you start waterfowl hunting, make sure you have the following four things:

1. A valid Vermont hunting license.
2. A Federal duck stamp, available at most post offices
3. A Vermont state duck stamp, available wherever Vermont hunting licenses are sold
4. A H.I.P. number, available at [www.vtfishand-wildlife.com](http://www.vtfishand-wildlife.com) or at 1-877-306-7091

(State and federal duck stamps are required only for hunters 16 and older)

## Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend

A **Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend** for residents and nonresidents is usually held in late September for hunters 17 and under. Check the migratory bird hunting rules syllabus for details.

## WATERFOWL

For a mountainous state, Vermont offers surprisingly good hunting for a variety of waterfowl. To maximize hunting opportunities, Vermont is divided into three waterfowl zones: the Lake Champlain Zone, which includes Lake Champlain and the adjoining Champlain Valley lowlands, the Interior Zone, and the Connecticut River Zone.

Seasons are set in late August in accordance with migratory bird hunting frameworks established by the federal government.

During the October portion of duck season, most hunting is for “puddle ducks” on shallow-water marshes, beaver flows, ponds, and rivers. The most common species are mallards, wood ducks, black ducks and greenwing teal. As the season progresses and marshes begin to freeze in November, open water hunting for migrating “diving ducks” on Vermont’s larger lakes swings into full gear. Goldeneyes, lesser scaup, ringnecks, and buffleheads are the most common diving ducks. Excellent

hunting for goldeneyes and late-migrating mallards and black ducks can often be had from mid-November through the close of the season in December.

Canada geese and snow geese are found in areas with farm fields that provide waste grains and green grasses as food. Snow goose seasons are liberal, reflecting the record number of greater snow geese in the Atlantic Flyway. A September Canada goose hunting season offers an opportunity to hunt resident Canada geese that have increased in numbers in recent years. An October season for Canada geese is open when additional geese are migrating through the state.

The best waterfowl hunting opportunities are in the Champlain Valley, where numerous public wetlands provide excellent hunting for ducks and geese. Elsewhere, good waterfowl hunting can also be had in the Northeast Kingdom on and along Lake Memphremagog and its tributary rivers.



## Duck Blinds

Waterfowl blinds may not be placed on or in the waters of the state earlier than the first Saturday of September of any year.

Anyone who places a blind must have their name and address permanently and legibly affixed on the blind by waterproof paint or rustproof tag.

Waterfowl blinds located on or in any waters of the state except Lake Champlain must be removed, together with contents and any surrounding debris, on or before May 15 of the following year. A waterfowl blind located on or in Lake Champlain must be removed on or before February 15 of the following year. Also see **Tree Stands** and **Ground Blinds** sections.

Placement of signs for the purposes of claiming duck blind locations has no basis in law and is unenforceable.

The use of Phragmites or other invasive plants in duck blinds is prohibited. This does not apply to non-invasive plants used for camouflage such as corn stalks or cedar.

## Nontoxic Shot

It is illegal to take a group or combination of waterfowl/coots and other species in Vermont while possessing loose shot or shot shells loaded with any shot other than nontoxic shot. Shot should be of a size no larger than size T.

## Woodcock & Common Snipe

Woodcock are found statewide. "Timberdoodles" feed primarily on worms, and they favor areas with moist, rich soils covered with dense stands of woody shrubs and sapling-stage hardwoods. Alder swales, regenerating clear cuts and abandoned pastures covered with thickets of dogwood, sumac, birch and aspen are all likely woodcock covers. Locally hatched native birds provide hunting early in the season, but the best shooting is in mid to late October, when large numbers of migratory birds are pushed out of Canada by cold weather. The best hunting is generally in the Champlain Valley and Northeast Kingdom.

### Season

Set annually, see 2017 Waterfowl Syllabus.

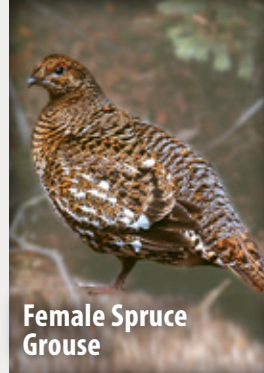
Woodcock and common snipe are migratory game birds. Migratory game birds, including waterfowl, may be taken only by shotgun with a one-piece plug or manufactured to restrict it to three-shot capacity. State and federal duck stamps are not required for woodcock or snipe hunting. A H.I.P. number is required to hunt woodcock and common snipe.

## SPRUCE OR RUFFED GROUSE?

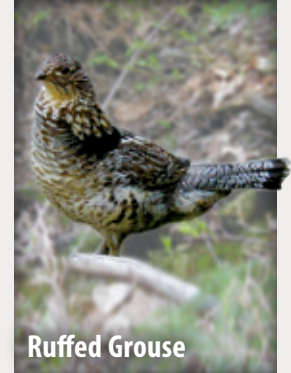
### Know the Difference



Male Spruce Grouse



Female Spruce Grouse



Ruffed Grouse

Spruce grouse occur in the Nulhegan Basin near Moose and Yellow Bogs on the Conte National Wildlife Refuge and Wenlock Wildlife Management Area (WMA). They also are found in Victory Basin WMA and Victory State Forest.

Ruffed grouse hunters are reminded that wounding or killing a spruce grouse is a violation of the Vermont Endangered Species Act and subject to significant fines. Any spruce grouse killed by hunters must be reported to a game warden.

## H.I.P PROGRAM

### Harvest Information Program for Migratory Game Birds

#### Compliance

If you are hunting migratory game birds, federal law requires you to annually register with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.). Migratory game birds include ducks, geese, brant, coots, snipe, and woodcock. Visit [www.vtfwdsales.com/online/hip-entry.php](http://www.vtfwdsales.com/online/hip-entry.php) or call Toll Free 1-877-306-7091 (Monday–Friday, 7:45 am to 4:30 pm EST) to register and obtain your H.I.P. permit number. Write the H.I.P. number on your hunting license. Vermont and federal migratory waterfowl stamps are also needed to hunt ducks or geese.

#### How does the H.I.P. work?

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) will ask a sample of hunters to record daily hunt information on survey cards and return completed cards at the end of hunting season. The survey will enable the USFWS to more accurately determine the status of migratory game birds. Inadequate harvest information has been used to legally challenge hunting seasons in some states.

#### We thank you for your help!

Cooperation and support from hunters is the key to sound wildlife management. The Harvest Information Program for Migratory Game Birds will help ensure the future of migratory bird hunting.

# Small Game Hunting

**Gray squirrels are Vermont's most overlooked small-game animal.** "Bushytails" can be found wherever mature stands of oak, hickory and beech trees provide them with abundant nuts, especially in the southwestern portion of the state at lower elevations, the Champlain Valley, and along the Connecticut River. Although lightly hunted in Vermont, squirrels are a real challenge when stalked with a .22 rifle, and their delicate meat compares favorably with rabbit.

Cottontail rabbits are found primarily in the Southwestern Foothills and Champlain Valley, including the Champlain Islands. "Cottontails" favor the varied habitat found in agricultural lowlands and are commonly encountered in brushy hedgerows, overgrown fields, briar thickets, and shrub-filled creek bottoms. Kicking up cottontails on a crisp fall day is

excellent sport, whether hunters elect to chase them with a beagle and shotgun or stalk them with a .22 rifle.

Snowshoe hare are found statewide but are most abundant in areas with active forest management, particularly in the Green Mountains and Northeast Kingdom. The greatest concentrations of hare are found in areas with dense, low-growing softwood, such as cedar swamps, spruce bogs and cut-over areas with thickets of young spruce and fir. Snowshoe hare have seasonally white coats and large hind feet, adaptations that let them remain active throughout the winter. They are a favorite of hunters with hounds because they prefer to run a hard race rather than hole-up, as cottontails often do when hard-pressed.

## Seasons & Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31	4 daily; 8 possession
Rabbit & Hare	Sept. 30, 2017 – March 11, 2018 & Sept. 29, 2018 – March 10, 2019 WMUs D & E remain open through March 31	3 daily; 6 possession

## Sale of Small Game

It is illegal to buy or sell a wild bird, rabbit, hare or gray squirrel at any time.

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# Furbearer Hunting & Trapping

## Furbearer Hunting Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON
Bobcat	Jan. 10 – Feb. 7
Red & Gray Fox	Oct. 28, 2017 – Feb. 11, 2018 & Oct. 27, 2018 – Feb. 10, 2019
Raccoon	Oct. 13 – Dec. 31
Muskrat	Mar. 20 – April 19
Coyote, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	No Closed Season
Beaver, Otter, Mink, Fisher, Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Lion	No Open Season

## Furbearer Trapping Seasons

SPECIES	SEASON
Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel	Oct. 27 – Dec. 31
Otter, Muskrat, Beaver	Oct. 28, 2017 – March 31, 2018 & Oct. 27, 2018 – March 31, 2019
Fisher	Dec. 1 – 31
Bobcat	Dec. 1 – 16
Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Lion	No Open Season

## Furbearing Animals

The following are classified as furbearing animals: beaver, otter, marten, mink, raccoon, fisher, fox, skunk, muskrat, bobcat, coyote, weasel, opossum, lynx, and wolf.

## Fur Buyer's License

Anyone dealing in pelts must have a valid fur buyer's license. The fur buyer's license is available from Fish & Wildlife in Springfield (phone 802-289-0613).

## Trapping License Requirements

An applicant for a trapping license must have either:

- A previous or current trapping license from any state or Canadian province; or
- A certificate showing satisfactory completion of a trapper education course, in any state or Canadian province; or
- A signed affidavit attesting to having a prior trapping license.

**NEW THIS YEAR** It is now mandatory for trappers to fill out and return an Annual Trapper's Report for each year they possess a trapping license.

## Restrictions


- **Trapping in Wildlife Management Unit-E requires setting traps under special restrictions designed to avoid Canada lynx.** This regulation is available on the Fish & Wildlife website and from our offices.
- Landowner permission is required to trap on all private property not owned by the trapper.
- Trappers are required to check their traps at least once a day and dispatch or release any captured animal. The only exception is body gripping traps set in the water or set under the ice, colony/cage traps set underwater, or foothold traps under the ice, which trappers are

required to check every three calendar days and remove any animal caught.

- Every trap a trapper sets on lands they do not own is required to have their name and address permanently and legibly attached to the trap or engraved on the trap.
- All traps under ice will be marked with a tag visible above the ice.
- Body gripping traps with a jaw spread over eight inches must be set five feet or higher above the ground, or in the water (see diagram, page 38).
- A person shall not use toothed foothold traps or snares when trapping.
- A person shall not set a trap between December 31 and the following fourth Saturday in October unless the trap is in the water, under the ice, or on a float in the water.
- A person shall not possess a living furbearing animal, except as provided by rules of the board or part 4 of Title 10.
- A person shall not possess a fur-bearing animal trapped outside of its legal season without the written authorization of the department, not to include animals taken pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4828.
- A person shall not possess fur or skin of a fur-bearing animal that was taken illegally.
- A person shall not take a fur-bearing animal by use of any poisonous mixture.
- A person shall not take a fur-bearing animal from its den by cutting, digging, smoking, by the use of chemicals, or by the use of mechanical devices.

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## Beaver, Muskrat

- **Muskrat only:** When trapping muskrat between March 1 and March 31, body gripping traps are restricted to 5 inches or less (see diagram).
- A person shall not disturb or destroy a beaver or muskrat den or place a trap on or in the den, or in the entrance to the den.
- A person may set a trap within 10 feet of the nearest point, above the water, of a beaver house or dam only from the 4th Saturday in October through the last day of February, all dates inclusive.
- Except for the setting of traps as provided above, a person shall not interfere in any manner with dams, dens, or houses of beaver except upon prior written approval from the Commissioner.
- **NEW THIS YEAR** An offset trigger is no longer required on beaver traps during the month of March. Otter trapping season now includes the entire month of March.

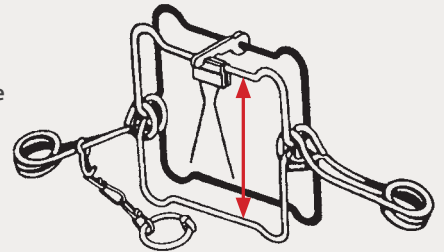
## Bobcat, Otter, Fisher

- From December 17 to December 31, both dates inclusive, in order to minimize incidental bobcat harvest during the remain-

### BODY - GRIPPING TRAP

#### How to measure a body-gripping trap:

Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame **does not** change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the **MAXIMUM** distance as shown in this picture:



- der of the fisher season, a person shall not set a body-gripping trap with a jaw spread over 6 inches measured inside the jaws unless the trap is set 5 or more feet above the ground, or in the water (see diagram).
- The skins of bobcat, otter and fisher legally taken may be possessed, transported, bought and sold only when tagged and

marked as hereinafter provided.

- A person who takes bobcats, otter or fisher during these seasons shall notify authorized department staff within 48 hours of the close of the season. Pelts shall be presented to authorized department staff for tagging. Such tags shall remain affixed to the pelts until tanned. Carcasses shall be surrendered to authorized department staff at the time of tagging.
- No bobcat, otter or fisher pelts or carcasses taken during these seasons shall be transported out of the state of Vermont prior to being tagged by authorized department staff.
- A person who takes bobcat, fisher and otter pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4828 and who desires to keep the pelt shall notify authorized department staff within 84 hours of the taking. Pelts shall be presented to authorized department staff for tagging. Such tags shall remain affixed to the pelts until tanned. Carcasses shall be surrendered to authorized department staff at the time of tagging.

## Raccoons

- A person shooting raccoons during the raccoon hunting season shall use a 0.22 caliber rimfire firearm or a shotgun with #2 shot or smaller.
- A light may be used to illuminate and shoot raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the raccoon hunting season. A light may also be used to illuminate a raccoon once treed by a dog, or dogs, during the training season.

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## TRAPPING RULES

# Changes to Trapping Rules

**I**n 2016, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board received a petition asking for six regulatory changes related to trapping. The Department recommended that the Board consider two of these changes, expanding the otter season through March and lengthening the check time on muskrat colony/cage traps, which the Board passed after receiving considerable public input and several rounds of deliberation and voting. Below is a quick summary of the Department's rationale for supporting these changes.

## Muskrat Colony/Cage Trap Check Times

Prior to 2008, the legal check time for muskrat colony/cage traps set underwater was three calendar days as it was with all other kill type traps set in aquatic environments. However, when the furbearer rules were consolidated in 2008, these muskrat specific traps were inadvertently left off the list of traps requiring a three-day check thereby requiring them, by default, to be checked every day. The changes to this rule bring the check times for these traps back to three calendar days in compliance with other similar traps.



## Otter Trapping Season Extension

Otter trappers take only two animals annually for every 90 square miles, posing no threat to the population and providing critical data to help us understand and protect otters throughout the state. Also, given that trapping pressure declines throughout the winter (93% of harvest is completed by January 31), the expanded March harvest is expected to be fewer than 10 additional otters per year.

Beaver and otter often occupy the same habitats and, therefore, require a management strategy that considers both species. The beaver and otter trapping seasons always ran concurrently until 2007 when the beaver season was expanded to address burgeoning damage complaints. At that time, trap trigger regulations were also enacted to specifically minimize the accidental take of otter during the expanded beaver season. These trigger regulations, however, were reported on rare occasions to inhibit proper trap function resulting in the captured animals not being immediately killed as the traps are designed to do. The newly expanded March otter season eliminates the need for these trigger regulations thereby improving the animal welfare of these trapping systems.









# HABITAT HELP IS HERE FOR LANDOWNERS



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### Conservation



- Restoring native species such as beaver, moose, wild turkey, and common loon, and conserving endangered species including lake sturgeon, bald eagles, turtles, and bats.
- Working with private landowners and towns to create habitat management plans and conservation planning initiatives.
- Reviewing Act 250 and Act 248 land use permits to address impacts to important wildlife habitat.
- Sustaining wildlife for the next generation and ensuring that our grandchildren will still be able to see brook trout, butterflies, birds, and bears.

- Managing more than 135,000 acres of Fish & Wildlife Department-owned land for all to enjoy.
- Partnering with land trusts to put conservation easements on private property that improve habitat and provide public access.
- Maintaining 180 fishing access sites, parking areas and wildlife viewing platforms.

### Public Access



- Educating 900 campers a year on ecology and natural history at our Green Mountain Conservation Camps at Kehoe and Buck Lake.
- Certifying more than 5,000 Vermonters a year through hunter safety courses, and teaching 5,000 students to fish through the Let's Go Fishing Program.
- Keeping the public informed about wildlife through news articles, public meetings, Facebook, wildlife festivals, and other events.

### Education



- Improving wildlife crossings to keep large animals such as moose and deer off highways.
- Dealing with nuisance wildlife, including rabid animal response, beaver damage mitigation, and black bear conflicts.
- Assisting in searches for people who are lost or injured in remote areas by our highly skilled and experienced wardens.

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**Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**

Agency of Natural Resources  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702  
(802) 828-1000

**Office Hours:** 7:45 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday  
**Website:** [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

**General Information** ..... (802) 828-1000  
**Email** ..... [fwinformation@vermont.gov](mailto:fwinformation@vermont.gov)

**Hunter Education** ..... (802) 828-1193

**Law Enforcement**.....(802) 828-1529

**License Center**.....(802) 828-1190  
Dewey Building  
National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05620

**Wildlife**..... (802) 828-1000

**Commissioner’s Office** .....(802) 828-1454

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**Public Outreach** ..... (802) 828-1000

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**Bennington**.....(802) 447-2844  
**Grand Isle** .....(802) 372-3171  
**Roxbury**.....(802) 485-7568  
**Salisbury**.....(802) 352-4371

**District Fish & Wildlife Offices**

**Barre District Natural Resources Office**

5 Perry Street, Suite 40  
Barre, VT 05641  
(802) 476-0199  
(802) 476-0129 (fax)

**Fish & Wildlife Laboratory**

Roxbury, VT 05669  
(802) 485-7566

**Essex District Natural Resources Office**

111 West Street  
Essex Jct, VT 05452  
(802) 878-1564  
(802) 879-5649 (fax)

**Rutland District Natural Resources Office**

271 North Main Street, Suite 215  
Rutland, VT 05701  
(802) 786-0040  
(802) 786-3870 (fax)

**St. Johnsbury District Natural Resources Office**

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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-2099  
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(802) 748-6687 (fax)

**Springfield District Natural Resources Office**

100 Mineral Street, Suite 302  
Springfield, VT 05156  
(802) 289-0603  
(802) 885-8890 (fax)

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Col. Jason Batchelder ..... 828-1190  
Maj. George Scribner ..... 828-1190

**Northwestern District**

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Wedin, Carl	879-5669	868-9110	St. Albans
Sgt. Barrett, Chad	229-9191	224-6324	Bolton
Brown, Paul	229-9191	485-4432	Northfield
Coffey, Ethan	878-7111	888-2964	Morrisville
Currier, Robert	878-7111	871-5200	Essex Jct.
Fowler, Sean	229-9191	454-9919	Plainfield
Hungerford, Josh	524-5993	933-9313	Enosburg Falls
Joyal, Dana	878-7111	425-4506	Charlotte
Schmid, Jeremy	878-7111	288-7222	Essex
Snyder, Dustin	524-5993	849-9980	Fairfax
Thiel, Matthew	524-5993	868-6325	Swanton

**Northeastern District**

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Gregory, David	751-0103	626-4390	Lyndonville
Sgt. Szymanowski, Trevor	748-3111	695-1314	N. Concord
Spl. Shopland, Russell	748-3111	472-3040	E. Hardwick
Amsden, Dennis	748-3111	751-7695	St. Johnsbury
Dukette, Jason	334-8881	334-2904	Derby
Hazard, Randy	334-8881	962-3492	Bloomfield
Reed, Jenna	334-8881	334-1215	Newport Ctr
Schichtle, Mark	222-4680	757-2121	Wells River
Scott, T. Mike	334-8881	755-6275	Albany

**Central District**

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Stedman, Justin	786-3865	325-9333	Pawlet
Sgt. Gallant, Keith	234-9933	728-9215	E. Braintree
Spl. Whitlock, Dale	388-4919	388-4875	E. Middlebury
Spl. Sterling, Robert	773-9101	265-4602	Fair Haven
Butler, Wesley	773-9101	483-9392	Pittsford
Gravelle, Jason	234-9933	484-7435	Hartland
Whipple, Jeffrey	234-9933	685-7813	Vershire

**Southern District**

WARDEN	STATE POLICE OFFICE TEL.	HOME TEL. (802)	RESIDENCE
Lt. Eckhardt, Greg	885-8830	824-5785	Landgrove
Sgt. Buttle, Travis	442-5421	442-4383	Shaftsbury
Carey, Timothy	773-9101	492-8292	Shrewsbury
Circe, Dustin	773-9101	287-2208	Poultney
Jackman, Cody	442-5421	867-7012	Dorset
Price, Kelly	257-7101	251-2171	Brattleboro
Sargent, Asa	722-4600	674-4239	Windsor
Taddei, David	722-4600	221-4066	Townshend
Watkin, Richard	722-4600	368-7302	Wilmington

**Trainees**

Abigail Serra, Kyle Isherwood, Justin Turner, Will Seegers



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Northeast Regional Office**  
(413) 253-8516

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(802) 388-6688  
(voice/TDD)

**Manchester Ranger District**

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(802) 362-2307  
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**Rochester Ranger District**

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(802) 767-4261  
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The Fish and Wildlife Board has fourteen members—one from each county. They are appointed by the governor for six year terms. The board enacts hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

**Orange County**

**Kevin Lawrence, Chair**  
5449 Main Street  
Newbury, VT 05051  
802-280-5884  
fwboard.orange@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2019

**Washington County**

**Theresa Elmer, Vice Chair**  
1308 Loop Road  
Northfield, VT 05663  
802-485-7184  
fwboard.washington@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2019

**Franklin County**

**Peter W. Allard**  
18 Country Club Estates  
Swanton, VT 05488  
802-527-7381  
fwboard.franklin@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2019

**Bennington County**

**David Fielding Jr.**  
47 Cross Road  
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255  
fwboard.bennington@gmail.com  
(802) 362-0049  
Term:  
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

**Rutland County**

**Brian Wiles**  
P.O. Box 139  
Forest Dale, VT 05745  
802-349-8766  
fwboard.rutland@gmail.com  
Term:  
March, 2017 – February 28, 2023

**Windsor County**

**Tim Biebel**  
267 Taylor Drive  
Windsor, VT 05089  
fwboard.windsor@gmail.com  
(603) 738-9776  
Term:  
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

**Essex County**

**Craig Nolan**  
227 Cottage Road  
Averill, VT 05903  
802-822-9926  
fwboard.essex@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 21, 2012 – March 21, 2018

**Chittenden County**

**Cheryl Frank Sullivan**  
P.O. Box 371  
Underhill, VT 05489  
802-233-6192  
vtfwbchittenden@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2014 – February 29, 2020

**Windham County**

**Dennis Mewes**  
1037 Kipling Road  
Dummerston, VT 05301  
802-257-1633  
fwboard.windham@gmail.com  
Term:  
April 1, 2015 – February 28, 2021

**Orleans County**

**David Robillard**  
5589 E. Hill  
North Troy, VT 05859  
802-744-4022  
fwboard.orleans@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2023

**Caledonia County**

**Johanna Laggis**  
589 Hardwick Farms Road  
East Hardwick, VT 05836  
802-472-6161  
fwboard.caledonia@gmail.com  
Term:  
March 1, 2014 – February 29, 2020

**Addison County**

**Patrick Berry**  
403 East Main Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
fwboard.addison@gmail.com  
(802) 388-3650  
Term:  
March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2022

**Grand Isle County**

**Craig Greene**  
137 Border Road  
Alburl, VT 05440  
802-233-0125  
fwboard.grandisle@gmail.com  
Term:  
April 25, 2012 – April 25, 2018

**Lamoille County**

**William Pickens**  
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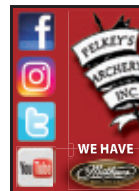
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DAY	JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APR.		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.
1	7:26	4:22	7:08	5:00	6:27	5:39	6:31	7:18	5:41	7:54	5:09	8:27	5:10	8:38	5:38	8:14	6:13	7:26	6:48	6:31	7:28	5:40	7:06	4:13
2	7:26	4:23	7:07	5:02	6:25	5:40	6:29	7:19	5:40	7:56	5:09	8:28	5:11	8:38	5:39	8:13	6:15	7:24	6:50	6:29	7:29	5:38	7:07	4:12
3	7:26	4:24	7:06	5:03	6:24	5:41	6:27	7:20	5:38	7:57	5:08	8:29	5:12	8:37	5:40	8:12	6:16	7:22	6:51	6:27	7:30	5:37	7:08	4:12
4	7:26	4:25	7:04	5:05	6:22	5:43	6:26	7:21	5:37	7:58	5:08	8:30	5:12	8:37	5:41	8:11	6:17	7:21	6:52	6:25	6:32	4:36	7:09	4:12
5	7:26	4:26	7:03	5:06	6:20	5:44	6:24	7:23	5:35	7:59	5:08	8:30	5:13	8:37	5:43	8:09	6:18	7:19	6:53	6:23	6:33	4:34	7:10	4:12
6	7:26	4:27	7:02	5:07	6:18	5:45	6:22	7:24	5:34	8:00	5:07	8:31	5:14	8:36	5:44	8:08	6:19	7:17	6:54	6:21	6:34	4:33	7:11	4:11
7	7:25	4:28	7:01	5:09	6:17	5:47	6:20	7:25	5:33	8:02	5:07	8:32	5:14	8:36	5:45	8:07	6:20	7:15	6:56	6:20	6:36	4:32	7:12	4:11
8	7:25	4:29	6:59	5:10	6:15	5:48	6:18	7:26	5:32	8:03	5:07	8:32	5:15	8:35	5:46	8:05	6:22	7:13	6:57	6:18	6:37	4:31	7:13	4:11
9	7:25	4:31	6:58	5:12	6:13	5:49	6:17	7:28	5:30	8:04	5:06	8:33	5:16	8:35	5:47	8:04	6:23	7:11	6:58	6:16	6:38	4:29	7:14	4:11
10	7:25	4:32	6:57	5:13	6:11	5:50	6:15	7:29	5:29	8:05	5:06	8:34	5:17	8:34	5:48	8:02	6:24	7:10	6:59	6:14	6:40	4:28	7:15	4:11
11	7:24	4:33	6:55	5:14	7:09	6:52	6:13	7:30	5:28	8:06	5:06	8:34	5:17	8:34	5:49	8:01	6:25	7:08	7:00	6:13	6:41	4:27	7:16	4:11
12	7:24	4:34	6:54	5:16	7:08	6:53	6:11	7:31	5:27	8:07	5:06	8:35	5:18	8:33	5:50	7:59	6:26	7:06	7:02	6:11	6:42	4:26	7:17	4:11
13	7:23	4:35	6:52	5:17	7:06	6:54	6:10	7:32	5:25	8:08	5:06	8:35	5:19	8:33	5:52	7:58	6:27	7:04	7:03	6:09	6:44	4:25	7:18	4:12
14	7:23	4:36	6:51	5:18	7:04	6:56	6:08	7:34	5:24	8:10	5:06	8:36	5:20	8:32	5:53	7:56	6:28	7:02	7:04	6:07	6:45	4:24	7:18	4:12
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16	7:22	4:39	6:48	5:21	7:00	6:58	6:05	7:36	5:22	8:12	5:06	8:36	5:22	8:31	5:55	7:53	6:31	6:58	7:07	6:04	6:48	4:22	7:20	4:12
17	7:21	4:40	6:46	5:23	6:59	6:59	6:03	7:37	5:21	8:13	5:06	8:37	5:23	8:30	5:56	7:52	6:32	6:57	7:08	6:02	6:49	4:21	7:21	4:13
18	7:21	4:41	6:45	5:24	6:57	7:01	6:01	7:39	5:20	8:14	5:06	8:37	5:24	8:29	5:57	7:50	6:33	6:55	7:09	6:01	6:50	4:20	7:21	4:13
19	7:20	4:43	6:43	5:25	6:55	7:02	6:00	7:40	5:19	8:15	5:06	8:37	5:24	8:28	5:59	7:48	6:34	6:53	7:11	5:59	6:52	4:20	7:22	4:13
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23	7:17	4:48	6:37	5:31	6:48	7:07	5:53	7:45	5:16	8:19	5:07	8:38	5:28	8:25	6:03	7:42	6:39	6:45	7:16	5:53	6:57	4:17	7:24	4:15
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27	7:13	4:53	6:30	5:36	6:40	7:12	5:47	7:50	5:12	8:23	5:09	8:38	5:33	8:20	6:08	7:35	6:44	6:38	7:21	5:47	7:01	4:14	7:25	4:18
28	7:12	4:55	6:29	5:37	6:38	7:13	5:45	7:51	5:12	8:24	5:09	8:38	5:34	8:19	6:09	7:33	6:45	6:36	7:22	5:45	7:03	4:14	7:25	4:19
29	7:11	4:56			6:37	7:14	5:44	7:52	5:11	8:25	5:09	8:38	5:35	8:18	6:10	7:31	6:46	6:34	7:24	5:44	7:04	4:13	7:26	4:20
30	7:10	4:58			6:35	7:15	5:42	7:53	5:11	8:26	5:10	8:38	5:36	8:17	6:11	7:30	6:47	6:32	7:25	5:42	7:05	4:13	7:26	4:20
31	7:09	4:59			6:33	7:17			5:10	8:27			5:37	8:16	6:12	7:28			7:26	5:41			7:26	4:21

**Eastern Standard Time—Montpelier, VT**  
 March 11 – Eastern Standard Time changes to Daylight Savings Time  
 November 4 – Daylight Savings Time changes to Eastern Standard Time

## ABOUT THIS DIGEST

### Fish & Wildlife Laws

The purpose of Vermont Fish & Wildlife laws is to help protect, manage, and conserve the fish and wildlife of the state. It is the responsibility of each individual who hunts, fishes or traps to know these laws. This Guide provides the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's interpretation of these laws. It is formatted to make the laws easier to read and understand. For a complete wording of Vermont's fish and wildlife statutes and regulations, consult Vermont Statutes Annotated, Part 4, Title 10, available at Town Clerks' offices and on the Internet at [legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10](http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/10). Any questions you have regarding these laws should be directed to your local game warden.

### Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service

VTRS has trained people who will relay messages between hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired or deaf people who have a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) and people who can hear. This service may be used to call the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

If you have a TDD and wish to call a hearing person without a TDD: Dial 1-800-253-0191.

This program receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in education programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, please contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for public access.



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# SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

**T**he target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



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